

Soviets deny report over Jews

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet public figures have denied Western assertions that up to 400,000 Jews want to leave the Soviet Union and have said they number fewer than 4,000. The Soviet news agency TASS has said. "Propaganda organs unfriendly to the USSR have lately been intensively spreading the false and allegedly another 400,000 Soviet Jews want to leave the USSR," they said in a statement issued overnight by the official news agency. "We want to state here with the utmost responsibility and knowledge that this figure is a propaganda canard. This is a false figure, overstated more than 100 times." The statement was signed by a deputy of the Soviet parliament, Rakhil Geller, a deputy of the Ukrainian parliament, Rita Barg, a first deputy chairman of the anti-Zionist Soviet Public Committee, Samuil Ziva, and the chief rabbi of the Moscow Choral synagogue, Adolf Shayevich.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Omani minister to visit Aden

BAHRAIN (R) — Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusef bin Alawi begins a four-day official visit to Aden on Saturday amid fresh attempts by South Yemen's new leaders to win foreign acceptance. He will be the first senior Arab official to visit South Yemen since factional fighting in January forced President Ali Nasser Mohammad out of office. Diplomatic sources in the region said his discussions would centre on normalising relations between the two neighbours, at odds until recently over Aden's past support to Omani rebels. South Yemen's new leaders have pledged to seek closer ties with neighbours in the Arabian peninsula, but few governments have endorsed the new regime. In an interview with the Abu Dhabi newspaper Al Itihad last week, President Haider Abu Baker Al Attas said he would meet North Yemeni leader Ali Abdullah Saleh after this week's 'Eid Al Fitr holidays.

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Bridges to close

AMMAN (J.T.) — The King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges across the River Jordan will be closed as of 10 a.m. Thursday, June 12, and re-opened on Sunday, June 15. A number of stations have been opened in Amman, Zarqa and Irbid for issuing permits for travellers to the West Bank during the summer holiday. The stations organise the flow of travellers who have already acquired permits from the Israeli authorities to visit relatives in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Jordan to get \$27.5m loan

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The World Bank has approved a loan of \$27.5 million to Jordan for improving its power sector, according to an announcement from the bank. The \$27.5-million project will provide electricity to about 32,000 new consumers while improving existing services to another 73,000 in rural and urban areas. The World Bank is now examining tender documents for the project scheduled to be completed in 1991. The project will strengthen Jordan's power sector through the introduction of new technologies, reduction of systems losses and the improvement of operations and management. The project is part of Jordan's five-year investment programme for the power sector. Other financing for the project will be provided by the Jordanian Electric Power Company (\$35 million), the Irbid District Electricity Company (\$7.2 million), the Jordan Electricity Authority (\$1.8 million), and the government (\$150,000).

Ministry of Youth to supervise centres

AMMAN (Petra) — It has been decided that the Ministry of Youth will undertake the supervision of youth centres in refugee camps through the Jordan Youth Organisation (JYO) instead of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) as of June 15. The new arrangement was decided during a meeting held Wednesday by Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Daud and Youth Minister Dr. Eid Dahiya. Under the new arrangement, youth centres will operate in accordance with the Law of Voluntary Societies and Sports Clubs in the country.

Mexico beats Iraq 1-0; Belgium, Paraguay draw 2-2

MEXICO CITY (R) — Hosts Mexico beat Iraq 1-0 in their final World Cup Group B match here Wednesday but missed the finishing power of suspended striker Hugo Sanchez. The win was enough, though, to satisfy 108,000 frantic fans in the giant Aztec stadium and put Mexico through, as section winners, to a last-16 tie in the same stadium next Sunday against opponents as yet unknown, probably either Bulgaria, Algeria or Northern Ireland. In other Group B match, a badly depleted Belgium side were held to a 2-2 draw by Paraguay in Toluca, a result which will probably sentence the Belgians to a second round clash with Brazil in Guadalajara on June 16.

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King announces planned Iraq-Syria talks on Friday

His Majesty voices hope for successful Arab summit in interview with Washington Post

Combined agency despatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein said in an interview published on Wednesday that the foreign ministers of Iraq and Syria are expected to meet on Friday to explore a reconciliation and possible summit between their leaders.

The meeting is to take place at the border between Iraq and Syria, the King said in the interview with the Washington Post. The King told the Post the proposed meeting grows out of visits he made to Baghdad and Damascus and a trip Prime Minister Zaid Rifai made to Athens to meet with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad earlier this month. The King, who is currently on a private visit to the United States, said a political truce between Iraq and Syria "would enable the Arab World to move from the state of

paralysis that has affected us for far too long towards greater cohesion."

Mr. Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein head rival factions of the Arab Baath Socialist Party and have accused each other of attempts to overthrow the other's government. Syria has supported Iraq in the Gulf war, adding to the discord between Iraq and Syria.

But in recent months, the ties between Iraq and Syria have been strained. King Hussein expressed hope

that a reconciliation of Iraq and Syria could "pave the way for a successful Arab summit" and possibly lead to a unified approach towards dealing with Israel, the Post said. The interview was conducted on Tuesday.

Among the factors leading to a possible Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation, the King said, was the occupation by Iraq of Iraqi territory around the port of Fao on the Gulf.

"Syria's leadership and people believe as we do that Arab land is sacred, and must be safeguarded, that is part of the Arab interest and the Arab identity," King Hussein told the Post.

The King, who met with President Reagan on Monday, voiced concern over relations between Jordan and the U.S. in view of the American decision to postpone

(Continued on page 3)

Bomb explodes in Tel Aviv suburb

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A bomb exploded on Wednesday on a busy shopping street in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan, slightly injuring a passer-by, police said.

The bomb, placed in a pavement garbage bin, was the fourth explosion in the city this year.

Two weeks ago, two bombs went off in the outlying suburb of Kfar Saba 20 kilometres north of Tel Aviv. One man was injured in the bombings.

On Tuesday, the army command announced the arrest of two Palestinian groups allegedly responsible for 29 bombings attacks

since May 1985. One group was associated with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Israeli army said.

It said the attacks included bombings in the northern port city of Haifa and 10 bombings in the town of Afula, the most recent of which was last Thursday.

It did not say how many suspects were arrested and did not otherwise identify them.

The command said two members of another group were arrested in the town of Jericho in the Jordan Valley on Sunday, after an

army patrol discovered two mines planted in the road leading to nearby Jewish settlement.

It said that the suspects revealed during interrogation that they were part of a larger group based in Jericho, Bethlehem, and Hebron that had planned a total of 14 mines on the approach roads to other Jewish settlements, and on the road to a Jewish cemetery in Hebron, during the last seven months.

Other members of the group were also arrested and confessed to taking part in these attacks, it said.

Waldheim says pro-Arab policy irked Israel, WJC

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Austrian President-elect Kurt Waldheim was quoted on Wednesday as saying the World Jewish Congress (WJC) and Israel campaigned against him because he followed a pro-Arab policy as secretary general of the United Nations.

"I stood on the side of Arab rights, and this annoyed the Israelis," Dr. Waldheim was quoted as saying in an interview published by the independent Beirut magazine Usbu Al Arabi.

"I supported the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and to an independent state of their own. I backed Syria's rights to the Golan Heights and sympathized with Third World causes," he was quoted as saying.

Dr. Waldheim dismissed as "slander" Israeli and WJC charges that he collaborated with the Nazis during World War II.

"I always treated the Jews with respect, and Austria served as a transit centre for Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union and East-

ern Europe," Dr. Waldheim was quoted as saying.

Dr. Waldheim was particularly critical of Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"Mr. Shamir tried by attacking me to win Jewish support both at home and abroad in preparation for taking over as prime minister," Dr. Waldheim said, according to Usbu Al Arabi.

Mr. Shamir is scheduled to head Israel's coalition government next October.

Dr. Waldheim's wife, Elizabeth, was quoted as saying in a separate interview published by the same magazine that her husband's sympathy for the Palestinians was behind the Israeli campaign against him.

"He met with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation when he visited Amman and the West Bank and learned about the suffering of the Palestinian refugees," she was quoted

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Commonwealth fears bloodbath in S. Africa

LONDON (R) — The seven-member Commonwealth group charged with trying to bring peace to South Africa has warned that the white-ruled republic faces the worst bloodbath the world has seen since World War II.

In its long-awaited report due to be officially released on Thursday, the so-called Eminent Persons Group (EPG) says the 49-nation Commonwealth must take immediate concerted action to avert what it calls an awesome tragedy.

The 116-page report, the result of six months work by the group, fell short of recommending all-out economic sanctions as demanded by the majority of Commonwealth members. Britain is virtually alone in opposing sanctions.

Diplomats have said they fear a break-up of the Commonwealth unless Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher can be persuaded to change her mind.

The group's report falls short of recommending full sanctions, but leaves no doubt that in its view sanctions could force the minority white government to make radical

changes.

The seven-man group, headed by former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser and retired Nigerian head of state General Olusegun Obasanjo, feels that the South African government is not prepared to negotiate fundamental change or countenance the end of white rule.

It concludes that recent moves by Pretoria were merely aimed at putting a more human face on apartheid.

The report said South Africa's black population had enough of apartheid and was now ready to die to overthrow the system.

The Pretoria government appeared deeply concerned about the effect of any economic measures but might decide that it would remain protected from them.

The group gained the impression black leaders would consider ever-increasing violence as the only option if they felt the international community would never adopt sufficient measures.

7 more die in S. African violence, page 8

Klibi and Benjedid discuss summit

ALGIERS (R) — Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi met Algerian President Chadli Benjedid on Wednesday to discuss prospects for a special Arab summit. Algeria's official news agency APS said.

The extraordinary summit aimed at re-uniting Arab ranks is scheduled to take place in Morocco on July 3, the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Itihad said Wednesday.

Mr. Klibi, who has already visited Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, has said he is trying to set a date for a meeting of Arab foreign ministers to pave the way for the proposed summit.

"The talks I have had so far with Arab officials have showed that Arab League members want to save the organisation and are ready to work to re-activate joint Arab action," APS quoted him as saying in an airport statement.

Mr. Klibi has proposed holding the ministerial meeting in Casablanca on June 23, Arab diplomatic sources said.

Al Itihad quoted senior diplomatic sources in Rabat, Morocco, as saying Arab foreign ministers had also agreed to meet on June 23 to prepare an agenda for the two-day July summit.

Al Itihad said Libya had expressed readiness to attend the summit with an open agenda.

The last attempt to hold a summit collapsed when ministers meeting in Fez, Morocco, last month failed to agree on an agenda and a venue for the summit, originally called for by Libya to discuss Washington's April 15 air strike on Tripoli and Benghazi.

22 perish in air crash near Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian authorities said on Wednesday that two more people had died of injuries suffered in the crash of an Air Sinai passenger plane, raising the death toll to 22.

The Fokker-27 carrying 25 passengers and crew from Alexandria crashed at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday as the pilot tried to make an emergency landing here in a raging sandstorm after reporting an engine on fire.

The twin-engine aircraft plowed into the compound of a construction company about two kilometres from an amusement park jammed with thousands of people celebrating the end of a four-day 'Eid Al Fitr holiday.

Air Sinai authorities said all of the passengers and crew members were Egyptians.

Officials said 20 people were killed instantly and two of the five survivors died later in hospital.

An Air Sinai official suggested an unknown object might have struck an engine of the turbo-prop Fokker 27 before it plunged into the ground and was engulfed in flames.

The airline official, quoted by the national Middle East News Agency, said all five crew and 17 of the 21 passengers perished.

The official said Air Sinai, a subsidiary of the national flag-carrier Egyptair, would call in foreign experts to analyse the accident.

One of the dead crew was 24-year-old stewardess Asbagan Attia, who had survived a bloody hijack of an Egyptair Boeing 737 to Malta last November. The hijack ended with 60 dead after Egyptian commandos stormed the plane.

Survivor Mona Michael, on honeymoon with her husband, told Reuters: "The plane was blown like a piece of paper in the air, going up and down like a saw."

Libyan state radio and JANA reported that similar rallies were held in all other major cities to mark the anniversary of the expulsion of the U.S. air force from Wheelus base, near Tripoli, one year after Col. Qadhafi came to power.

Nearly two months after expelling most Western reporters, authorities invited scores to return to attend ceremonies on Wednesday marking the 16th anniversary of the expulsion of the U.S. air force from Wheelus Base.

Col. Qadhafi returned to the Azizia barracks in Tripoli last week, following a long and unexplained absence.

Mzali optimistic over Jordan's effort to reconcile Iraq and Syria

By Randa Habib
Special to the Jordan Times

TUNISIAN PRIME Minister Mohammad Mzali has welcomed His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to reconcile Iraq and Syria and expressed hope that the King would succeed in sorting out differences between the two neighbouring states.

In a recent interview with the Jordan Times in Tunis, Mr. Mzali, a member of a special Arab committee entrusted with the task of settling Syria's differences with Jordan and Iraq, said his country's approach to solving Arab differences was based on "avoiding any attitude that can be construed as partisanship towards one Arab state or the other."

Tunisia had long adopted a policy of non-interference in other countries' affairs, he said.

Commenting on issues at stake in Iraqi-Syrian rapprochement, Mr. Mzali said "lack of trust as



Mohammad Mzali

well as military and security considerations" remain the main obstacles in the face of a "serious" reconciliation between Baghdad and Damascus.

"Military and security considerations (between the two countries) are not easy to solve," added Mr. Mzali, who visited

Syria, Jordan and Iraq as part of the special committee's efforts last year to settle Damascus' differences with Amman and Baghdad. The committee, headed by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, was successful in bringing about a Jordanian-Syrian reconciliation after which the King launched his efforts to bring Syria and Iraq together as a prelude to convening an Arab summit.

The King said in an interview published in the Washington Post on Wednesday that the foreign ministers of Syria and Iraq are expected to meet on Friday to explore reconciliation and a possible summit between their presidents.

Mr. Mzali told the Jordan Times Tunisia enjoyed good relations with both Algeria and Morocco which are at odds over the Western Sahara conflict. He said that Tunisia was engaged in economic

(Continued on page 3)

Cairo rejects reported role in leak over hijackers' plane

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt on Wednesday dismissed reports that a senior Egyptian official might have told Washington the route of the airliner taking hijackers of the Italian liner Achille Lauro out of Cairo last October.

U.S. jet fighters intercepted the Egyptian aircraft over the Mediterranean and forced it down in Sicily.

A report, made available to Reuters by the Genoa newspaper Il Secolo XIX, said it was highly likely that Egypt's Defence Minister Field Marshal Mohammad Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala had originated the leak. But an Egyptian Defence Ministry source said on Wednesday the report "aimed at smearing Abu Ghazala's image at home and at undermining his reputation in the Arab World at large."

The source noted that it coincided with a planned visit by Field Marshal Abu Ghazala to Washington on Thursday.

The United States also denied such reports on Tuesday, saying they were without foundation.

In Washington, the Pentagon said in a terse statement on Tuesday: "Recent reports that the United States received information from the Egyptian minister of defence, Field Marshal Abu Ghazala, which assisted in the interception of the Egyptian airliner carrying the Achille Lauro hijackers, are without foundation."

They were announced by out-

Wounded evacuated from Beirut camp

BEIRUT (R) — Iranian doctors evacuated ten wounded men, women and children from a besieged refugee camp in Beirut on Wednesday in a first success for Iranian attempts to stop a three-week-old war between Shi'ite militiamen and Palestinians.

Seven ambulances flying Iranian flags and carrying six medical staff drove into Bourj Al Barajneh camp after Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Ali Besbarati mediated a truce there and at the Sahr and Shatila shantytowns.

"We were biding in shelters... it was pure misery," a wounded evacuee, his right leg amputated, said

as he was carried into a hospital in west Beirut.

The three men, five women and two children brought out left behind at least 50 wounded in Bourj Al Barajneh, where conditions were "very bad," an Iranian doctor told Reuters.

Previous Algerian, Iranian and Syrian peace pleas failed to stop fighting that has killed more than 100 people and wounded 400 at Bourj Al Barajneh, Sabra and Shatila as militiamen of the Shi'ite Amal movement battled to prevent a revival of Palestinian military power.

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East bloc proposes major troop cuts

BUDAPEST (Agencies) — The Warsaw Pact military alliance of East bloc states on Wednesday proposed cutting more than one million the number of troops facing each other across the East-West divide in Europe and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation pledged to give careful consideration to the proposal.

The proposed cuts — of more than 500,000 apiece by NATO and the Eastern bloc — formed the core of an ambitious plan to reduce the threat to European peace from the continent's vast standing armies.

They were announced by out-

going Warsaw Pact General Secretary Miklos Barty and later published after Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and the leaders of the six other pact countries ended a two-day summit in the Hungarian capital.

In an appeal to NATO and all European countries, the Warsaw Pact proposed a first-stage cut of 100,000 to 150,000 men by each of the opposing blocs within a year or two.

The appeal specified that the cuts should include both land and tactical air forces and their arms

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U.S. unconvinced of Israeli version of spy case

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. investigators still suspect Israeli spy activities in the United States may go beyond the Pollard case despite assurances by the Israeli government and State Department, according to the Senate Intelligence Committee chairman.

"I don't know that it was a renegade operation and I don't know that it was a unique kind of operation... what we know today that we didn't know a year ago is that we need more information," David Durenberger said at a National Press Club speech on Tuesday.

"In other words, we're not talking peoples' word for the fact that there's nothing going on... the investigation which began last year is ongoing," the Minnesota

Republican added.

Jonathan Jay Pollard, a former counter-terrorism analyst for the navy, last week admitted participating in a spy ring involving senior Israeli officials.

Israel said the affair was an unauthorised and isolated operation by a small group of intelligence officials. But Washington appears torn on whether or not that was the case.

In a statement designed to ease strains with Israel, the State Department on Monday welcomed Israel's pledge to cooperate in a continuing probe, dismissed suggestions that the Israeli government had withheld full cooperation from U.S. investigators and said there was no evidence of any spy activities by Israel beyond

the Pollard case.

The statement appeared to be directed at Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) chief William Webster who had accused Israel of "selective cooperation."

The FBI immediately announced Mr. Webster stood by his charge, and the Justice Department, of which the FBI is a part, denied a State Department assertion that Attorney General Meese had approved its statement.

The White House on Tuesday said it agreed with what the State Department had said and saw no problems with justice over the statement.

"I don't think they (justice) differed from it except to say they hadn't approve it," said spokesman Larry Speakes.

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Salvage workers battle to save Iranian shuttle tanker in Gulf

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Salvage workers battled Wednesday to save the Liberian-flag tanker Medusa, reported fully ablaze with a cargo of crude oil and in danger of sinking in the northern Gulf after an Iraqi missile attack.

The Dutch salvage firm Smit International, which has mobilised four tugs to fight the fire, said in Rotterdam the 155,887-ton vessel, hit in an Iraqi naval raid early Tuesday, was in danger of foundering.

The fate of another Liberian-flag tanker, the Energy Mobility, hit south of Iran's Kharg Island oil export terminal on June 8, remained unclear amid reports it may have been struck again in ballast.

The crews of both ships were reported safe.

Lloyds Shipping Intelligence Service in London said Tuesday it understood the 103,163-ton Energy Mobility, believed to be under tow by Iranian tugs to Iran's Sirri Island terminal in the southern Gulf, was on fire after being hit for the second time in three days.

Both vessels are part of an Iranian shuttle fleet carrying oil from Kharg to the makeshift Sirri base for customers to load out of range of Iraqi air attacks.

A Smit International spokesman in Rotterdam said the fire aboard the Medusa had spread from the aft section and now engulfed the ship, almost fully laden with crude when hit for the third time in nine months.

Gulf shipping sources were unable to confirm another strike on the Energy Mobility, and it's London agents Associated Maritime Company said Tuesday they had no news of a fresh attack.

Lloyds agents Tuesday quoted Associated Maritime as saying direct communication with the vessel was impossible.

The missile Tuesday punched a gaping hole in the Medusa's bunker tank, with the boiler and engine-room blasted, they said. The wheel-house and accommodations quarters were badly damaged by the blaze which, the officers reported, was still raging 26 hours after the attack.

"The vessel is badly damaged by the fire, and the waters around it also are ablaze because of an

apparent oil spillage," said one Bahrain-based marine salvage executive, who refused to be identified, in line with his company regulations. "Three Iranian tugboats and one from Smit International are still trying to extinguish the fire, but without any sign of success."

He said that the rear section of the vessel and its cargo of crude oil were "being gutted."

"This is the biggest ship salvage operation in the region in 12 months," the same executive said. "The Medusa is under tow, and by sunrise Wednesday was some 80 kilometres south of Kharg, two additional tugboats have been diverted in the high seas to help fight the fire."

The rescue operation has been slowed down by a combination of a sweltering heat and the flames, with the rescuers trying to bring the blaze under control before cooling down the structure.

Shortly after the attack, an unidentified military spokesman in Baghdad told the official news agency that Iraqi Navy units dealt a "large maritime target an accurate and effective hit" near the Iranian coast.

The Iraqis often use the term

large maritime target to refer to oil tankers.

Kharg Island lies within a 30-mile radius defined by Iraq as an exclusion zone of military operations. The Iraqi High Command two years ago warned international shipping companies to keep their vessels out of the war zone or risk air and sea attacks.

Scores of commercial ships have since been crippled by the Iraqis in that region, with the Iraqis retaliating with similar raids on ships in neutral waters along the southern sector of the Gulf waters.

Iraq has vowed to undermine the economy of its war foe, Iran, by blocking its oil exports and deprive it from the oil revenues that are allegedly the sole source of cash for arms purchases.

Sirri so far has not been raided by the Iraqis, and Western diplomatic sources here said the tiny island is out of range for the Iraqi warplanes.

Iran's telephone and telex links with the rest of the world were meanwhile reported to have been partially restored after a two-day disruption precipitated by an Iraqi raid on Assadabad, home of the largest satellite ground station in Iran.

'Goren is obstacle to progress in occupied territories'

By Benny Morris
The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV — Ora Namir and a wide circle of Alignment "doves" believe that so long as Shmuel Goren remains the coordinator of activities in the territories, "there is no chance of improving the quality of life there." Goren is "without doubt" an obstacle to such improvement, says Namir, who chairs the Knesset Labour and Social Affairs Committee.

She also says that Defence Minister Rabin — commonly viewed as a hardliner on the territories — is far more open to a more liberal policy in the West Bank and Gaza than she had suspected. She and some 20 other dovish MPs, she relates, several months ago spent three hours with Rabin discussing the situation. "We emerged vastly encouraged," she recalls.

But Rabin's goodwill in this connection is blocked or diverted by Goren's handling of affairs in the field and by the support given to Goren by a "senior IDF (Israeli army) officer." Namir seems to largely attribute the lack of progress in improving the quality of life in the territories to the negative influence and instructions of that officer.

Namir bleakly sums up the Peres government's record on the subject as "a great many statements but very little action."

Famine relief programmes criticised

NEW YORK (R) — Famine relief programmes such as Live Aid cause more hurt than help to Ethiopians because of aid abuses by the Addis Ababa government, according to a prominent famine relief worker.

Dr. Tony Brauman, president of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), a French group which sends medical workers to famine areas, told a press conference Tuesday the Ethiopian government, used donated food to "bait" starving peasants into refugee camps where they could be rounded up and forcibly relocated.

"We were both a bait for the authorities and a smokescreen for international opinion," he said.

Lahd: Buffer zone is 90% 'secure'

METULLA (R) — The commander of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) said Wednesday his militia had gained the upper hand over forces supported by Syria in the buffer zone which it patrols north of Israel's border.

Maj.-Gen. Antoine Lahd, 57, said operations against the SLA by an array of anti-Israeli Lebanese movements had lost much of their effectiveness in the year since Israel withdrew most of its troops from Lebanon.

"We can now say that the security zone is 90 per cent secure," he told reporters invited by the Israeli authorities to this northernmost Israeli town adjoining the Lebanese border.

Gen. Lahd said there were an average of 60 to 90 attacks on the zone each month but most consisted of ineffective shelling from outside the area. He put SLA casualties at 45 dead and 160 wounded in the last 14 months.

He said Syria was behind all of these operations, "no matter who carried them out, either directly or by manipulating the Lebanese groups involved."

The self-declared zone, between five and 20 kilometres deep, runs from the Mediterranean coast to the foothills of Mount Hermon. It jagged northern edge, or "confrontation line," is about 120 kilometres long.

It was carved out by Israel a year ago when it pulled back from Lebanon after invading the country in 1982 to drive out Palestinian commanders who had harassed Israeli troops.

Gen. Lahd acknowledged that the main Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim Amal Movement had a role in the relative calm by preventing Palestinian fighters from returning to their former positions near the border area.

Israel maintains several hundred soldiers and security agents in the zone to back the SLA whose strength is estimated here at about 1,500 men, many of them part-time village militia members. Gen. Lahd declined to give figures for his force, saying it was "sufficient to carry out its task."

Gen. Lahd said Syria used its influence, supply of arms or direct control over Lebanese fighters groups to orchestrate attacks on the buffer zone.

"Some of our opponents are infiltrated by Syrian agents who direct their operations without letting them know that the orders come from Damascus," he said.

All but a handful of attacks on the SLA originated outside the zone and were carried out by Amal and the smaller Shi'ite fundamentalist Hezbollah group, as well as by the Lebanese Communist Party, he said.

The SLA is holding an estimated 200 prisoners, including many suspected Hezbollah militants, at a camp in the buffer zone and has refused to allow the Red Cross to visit the jail.

Gen. Lahd, a Maronite Christian and former regular army officer, described himself as a Lebanese patriot who assumed his duties because he feared the area's Christian minority was about to be slaughtered by its Muslim neighbours.

The buffer zone has a population of about 150,000, of which Gen. Lahd said a quarter were Christian. The SLA also polices without Israeli help the Jezzeine enclave further north where a further 25,000 Christians live.

"But I would also defend the Shi'ites or the Druze or the Sunnis if they were about to be massacred," he said. Gen. Lahd said about a third of his force were non-Christians.

Asked about accusations that he did Israel's work for it, Gen. Lahd replied: "I am a Lebanese soldier and believe it is the duty and interest of my force to maintain peace and security in the area and live peacefully with the Israelis. But to us, Lebanese interests are much more important than Israeli interests though it is a fact that our interests now coincide."

Jews burn Tel Aviv synagogue in retaliation for anti-bikini campaign

TEL AVIV (R) — A Tel Aviv synagogue was set on fire Wednesday in apparent retaliation by secular Jews against ultra-orthodox militants who have been burning bus shelters featuring advertisements of women in skimpy swimsuits, police said.

"It is a nightmare the devil himself could not have created," President Chaim Herzog said. "We have reached a state of emergency in relations between non-religious and observant Jews."

Tel Aviv's chief rabbi, Yitzhak Yedidya Frankel, called the incident at the Bnei Benjamin Synagogue in the city's "peace neighbourhood" unprecedented and inexcusable.

"I am shocked to the depths of my soul," Frankel said. "Where have we sunk to have reached this deterioration and schism in the nation?"

The pre-dawn blaze damaged prayer books and pews before a nearby resident noticed the smoke and extinguished the fire.

Police said a note was left on the door saying: "We will burn a synagogue for every bus shelter set afire." It was signed by "people against the ultra-religions."

"Someone has to stand up and say 'enough. Why this polarisation, this hate?' Frenkel said.

The arson attempt followed mounting ultra-religious vandalism that has damaged dozens of bus shelters in Jerusalem and the Tel Aviv area in recent weeks.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres summoned six cabinet members, including the interior, religious affairs and justice ministers, for emergency talks aimed at finding ways to defuse religious-sectarian tensions, Peres' office said.

Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş has accepted the U.N. draft unconditionally. But Mr. Kyprianou, the Greek Cypriot leader, delayed his official response of serious reservations on its provisions.

Previous public statements by Mr. Kyprianou and other Greek Cypriot political leaders complained that the secretary-general's draft had failed to deal with three basic issues.

Cyprus gives positive reply to U.N. proposal

NICOSIA (AP) — President Spyros Kyprianou has given a "positive" reply to a draft U.N. proposal to reunite this war-divided island, the government spokesman said Wednesday.

But official Greek Cypriot sources said Mr. Kyprianou's reply was not "an unqualified acceptance" of the United Nations proposal.

The spokesman, Petros Voskarides, said he could not com-

ment on the details of the response to the draft submitted by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to the Greek and Turkish Cypriot sides in April, before Mr. De Cuellar himself responds to it.

"But what I can say is that the reply of the Greek Cypriot side is positive and can contribute substantially to the promotion and achievement of a just and viable solution of the Cyprus problem," Mr. Voskarides added.

Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş has accepted the U.N. draft unconditionally. But Mr. Kyprianou, the Greek Cypriot leader, delayed his official response of serious reservations on its provisions.

Previous public statements by Mr. Kyprianou and other Greek Cypriot political leaders complained that the secretary-general's draft had failed to deal with three basic issues.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	23:05	Evening Show Cont.
Tel: 77111-19	23:57	News Headlines
	24:00	Close down
PROGRAMME ONE		
16:00	Koran	
16:20	Children's programmes	
16:35	Paul Daniel Show	
16:50	Contests for children	
17:00	News in Arabic	
17:10	World Bulletin	
17:25	Tomorrow's programmes	
PROGRAMME TWO		
17:30	Des chiffres et des lettres	
17:40	News in French	
17:50	French Varieties	
18:00	News in Hebrew	
18:10	News in Arabic	
18:20	Home to Roost	
18:30	World Cup: Algeria vs. Spain	
18:40	First half	
18:50	News in English	
19:00	World Cup — Second half	
19:10	Feature film: Walk the Proud Land	
RADIO JORDAN		
815 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM		
& partly on 95.60 MHz, SW		
Tel: 77111-19		
07:00	Light Music	
07:30	Morning Show	
08:00	News Summary	
08:30	Morning Show	
09:00	Pop Session	
09:30	News Summary	
10:00	Pop Session Cont.	
10:30	News Summary	
11:00	Pop Session	
11:30	News Summary	
12:00	Pop Session	
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23:30	News	
VOICE OF AMERICA		
MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9365, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz		
07:00	News	
07:30	News	
08:00	News	
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23:30	News	

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	4:00 p.m.	Closed Tuesday
EXHIBITIONS	Jordan National Gallery: Exhibitions a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from Jordan, Iraq, Iran, and Pakistan. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Tuesday, Tel. 630128.	
CIRCUS	* Roumanian Circus daily at Al Hussein Sports City.	
FEATURE FILM	* "Splash" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.	
VIDEO	* A video on evolution at 4:00 p.m. Thursday at the French Cultural Centre.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6010267 American Centre Tel. 644371 British Centre Tel. 6301740 French Cultural Centre Tel. 637009 Goethe Institute Tel. 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 630409 Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 651195 Haya Arts Centre Tel. 667181 Y.W.C.A. Tel. 641793 Y.W.M.C.A. Tel. 636111 University of Jordan Library Tel. 643555	
MUSEUMS	Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.)	
CHURCHES	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Tel. 623541. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Tel. 611757. Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox) Tel. 623541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Tel. 678066. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 611295. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 713261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Tel. 717151. Armenian Apostolic Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiah, 677334. Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Samir), Tel. 811295. Rainbow Congregation (International, Inter-denominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabal Amman, Tel. 606974.	
PRAYER TIMES	05:47 Sunrise 05:58 Sunrise 12:35 Dhuhr 16:17 Asr 19:44 Maghrib 21:34 Isha	
RADIO JORDAN	815 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 MHz, SW	
07:00	Light Music	
07:30	News	
08:00	News	
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23:30	News	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alfa Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. (08) 532020-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

09:15	Aqaba (RJ)
10:30	Kuwait (RJ)
10:45	Cairo (MS)
10:45	Jeddah (RJ)
10:58	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:55	Dhahran (RJ)
10:25	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
13:15	Kuwait (LN)
12:30	Istanbul (TK)
13:50	Kuwait (RJ)
14:00	Cairo (MS)
14:40	Abu Dhabi, Doha, Bahrain (GF)
15:05	Kuwait (RJ)
16:10	Riyadh (SV)
17:50	Lamaca (RJ)
18:00	Kuwait (RJ)
18:15	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
18:30	New York, Vienna (RJ)
19:00	Rhodes, Corfu (RJ)
19:10	Frankfurt (LE)
19:15	Amsterdam, Larnaca (RJ)
19:30	London, Athens (RJ)
20:00	Larnaca, Rhodes (RJ)
20:00	Zurich, Larnaca (BA)
21:00	London, Baghdad (RJ)
01:50	Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

07:00	Aqaba (RJ)
08:30	Aqaba (RJ)
09:00	Damascus, Paris (AF)
09:00	Beirut (MEA)
11:05	Corfu, Rhodes (RJ)
12:00	Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:00	Paris, London (RJ)
13:00	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
13:00	Athens, Malaysia (RJ)
13:15	Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
13:30	Tripoli (RJ)
13:30	Istanbul (TK)
14:00	Larnaca (RJ)
14:50	Cairo (MS)
15:00	Bahrain, Doha (GF)
15:00	Riyadh (SV)
20:00	Sana'a (LE)
20:30	Kuwait (RJ)
21:15	Jeddah (RJ)
21:30	Baghdad (RJ)
21:30	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

News Summary 08:30 Ships from Seven Seas 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newscast 09:30 Meridian 10:00 World News 10:30 24 Hours, News Summary 10:30 The Best of British 10:45 Sports World 11:00 World News 11:09 Regatons 11:15 Pled Paper 11:30 Music News 12:00 World News 12:09 British News 12:10 World News 12:40 The World Today 12:50 Financial News, Look Ahead 12:50 The Time Machine 13:00 News Summary; Off the Beaten Track 13:15 Merchant Navy Programme 13:30 Business Matters 14:00 World News

QUEEN ALIA INT'L AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

05:45 - Rio de Janeiro, Baghdad (JA)

21:30	Damascus (RJ)
22:00	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:15	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:30	Cairo (RJ)
22:50	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
02:15	London (BA)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

— Lanka Schmidt
— Sana
— Mandav Arrow
— Fleissence
— Frankfurt Arr
— Goncalo
— Kova Sejaht
— Alpha Challenger

Amin Kawan and Sons Company, Tel. 622324-9 at your service.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Wednesday rates	
Local selling rates in Jls	
Belgian franc	76.9
Dutch guilder	139
French franc	49.3
Italian lira	208.3
Swiss franc	208.3
Swedish crown	46.6
Swiss franc	190.6
U.K. sterling pound	529.8
U.S. dollar	347.5
W. German mark	157.1

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A slight drop in temperature is expected, with northerly moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

Amman	18/30
Aqaba	24/29
Dead Sea	17/33
Jordan Valley	20/27

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 32, Aqaba 41. Humidity readings: Amman 41 per cent, Aqaba 16 per cent.

07:35	Cairo (MS)
09:15	Aqaba (RJ)
09:55	Aqaba (RJ)
10:30	Kuwait (RJ)
10:50	Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:45	Bucharest (BF)
10:45	Jeddah (RJ)
10:45	Cairo (RJ)
10:50	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:55	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00	Damascus (RJ)
12:50	Istanbul (TK)
13:05	Muscat, Doha (GF)
14:35	Kuwait (RJ)
16:10	Jeddah (SV)
20:00	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
20:30	New York, Vienna (RJ)
20:40	Athens (RJ)
18:45	Malaya (RJ)
18:05	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)

NEWS IN BRIEF

PSD cautions drivers about high winds

AMMAN (Petra) — High winds carrying sand have been blowing across the eastern and south eastern regions of the country, especially in the districts of Hosh, Buweida and Jir Al Ramtha, according to an announcement issued by the Public Security Department (PSD). The PSD said that the strong, sandy winds have caused poor visibility on the roads and the department asked motorists to take extra care and to reduce their speed.

Customs officers seize 15 kg of hashish

AMMAN (J.T.) — Customs authorities at the Queen Alia International Airport have seized 15 kilograms of hashish which was being smuggled into the country. Mr. Haidham Quteishat, director of the customs office at the airport, said that the hashish was hidden inside the covers of nearly 40 cases of soap and investigations were underway. Mr. Quteishat said that his office handled eight cases of smuggling during 1985 and the illicit drugs seized included opium, hashish and heroin.

Dudin meets Palestinian delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin Wednesday conferred in his office with a delegation representing Palestinian refugees and displaced people living in the East Bank of Jordan. They discussed the services offered to Palestinian refugees and ways of improving them. Most of the educational and health services are provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the Jordanian government. The minister told the delegation that the government is keen on improving these services.

Patrols to check 'bridge' cars

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Licensing Department, in cooperation with roving patrol units, will Sunday start a campaign to check that vehicles commuting between cities and South Shumab in the Jordan Valley and the terminal at the bridges over the Jordan River are in good condition. A statement said that a committee in charge of the campaign will impound any vehicle found to be unfit to carry passengers. The campaign will last three days. The campaign is being conducted in view of the summer holidays and the rising number of travellers across the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad Bridges.

JNGC chief leaves for Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan National Geographic Centre (JNGC) Director General Ra'fat Al Majali has left for Morocco to attend the meetings of the Arab regional centre for survey sciences. Mr. Majali will also attend a special meeting to follow up on the recommendations issued by United Nations seminar on setting up a regional Arab centre for survey sciences.

Pakistani lady takes chair at campus

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah chair in Pakistan studies, instituted by the Government of Pakistan at the University of Jordan, has recently been filled with the appointment of a Pakistani lady Dr. Lal Bahai Ali, according to a press release from the Pakistani embassy in Amman. Before taking up her new post, Dr. Ali was professor and chairman of the department of history at the University of Peshawar. Dr. Ali obtained her doctorate from the London School of Oriental Studies and her specialisation is in the modern period in South Asian history. The release said. Regular lectures and seminars in Pakistani studies will commence in the next academic year, it added.

King announces Iraq-Syria talks

(Continued from page 1)

indefinitely the sale of sophisticated weapons to Jordan. "We don't know how long this will last, but certainly for the foreseeable future we are reorienting ourselves toward Europe and other sources," he said. He said Jordan was considering two European jet fighters and had recently received shipments of arms from the Soviet Union under an existing contract. Kuwait on Wednesday welcomed Jordan's efforts for arranging Friday's meeting between

the Iraqi and Syrian foreign ministers, Tariq Aziz and Farouq Al Shara'a. Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah told reporters: "We hope the meeting would be a positive step leading to a meeting between President Saddam Hussein and Hafez Al Assad to settle differences between the two sister countries." Sheikh Sabah said a reconciliation between Syria and Iraq would serve the interests of both countries and help restore Arab solidarity.

East bloc proposes troop cuts

(Continued from page 1)

and equipment, including tactical nuclear weapons with a range of up to 1,000 kilometres, should be destroyed or stockpiled. It said that if the two blocs made substantial cuts, other European countries belonging to neither grouping could join a continuing reduction process stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Urals.

The pact said cuts of more than a million men would reduce by a quarter the forces deployed in Europe by the two military alliances. Large-scale troop cuts "would substantially reduce the danger of a war in Europe," it said.

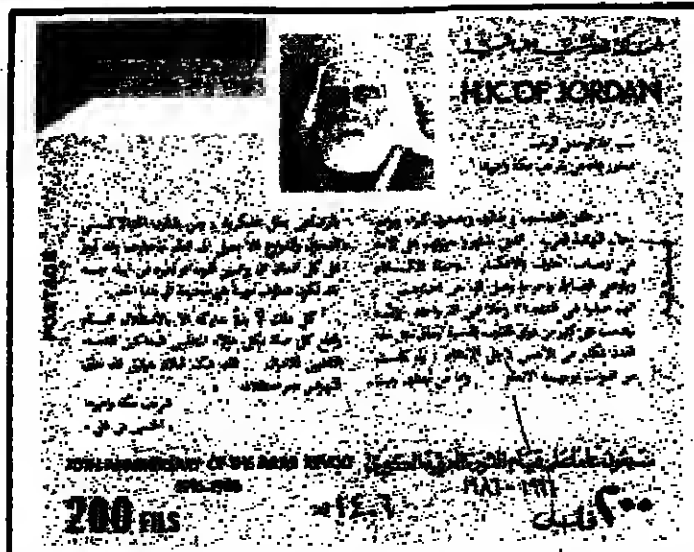
Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Pavlovsky said the proposal met NATO objections that implementation of East bloc plans for nuclear disarmament would leave the West at the mercy of Warsaw Pact conventional forces. "It opposes ideas which say the socialist countries want only to reduce nuclear arms," he told a news conference. The pact proposal endorsed and amplified a Soviet plan outlined by Mr. Gorbachev but with no figures or other details at the East German Communist Party congress on April 18. In a statement issued in Brussels, the NATO welcomed the Warsaw Pact appeal.

Mzali optimistic over Jordan's efforts to reconcile Iraq and Syria

(Continued from page 1)

as well as cultural cooperation with both of its neighbours. On his country's relations with Libya, Mr. Mzali said they deteriorated following Libyan accusations that Tunisia allowed American warplanes to overfly its territories on their way to bomb Tripoli and Benghazi in April. Mr. Mzali categorically denied any prior knowledge of the American decision to bomb Libyan cities. He said that relations between Tunisia and Tripoli were on the decline since Libya decided to deport 33,000 Tunisian workers from Libya in August last year. "Our relations with Libya are at a freezing point to say the least," the Tunisian premier said. He said he had discussed the

question of terrorism with French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, who visited Tunisia last month. It was Mr. Chirac's first trip to an Arab country since taking office. Mr. Mzali said the French premier pledged during his talks France's "support for Tunisia against all external threats." He added that "Tunisia has always fought against terrorism along with civilised nations, especially against state terrorism." He did not elaborate. Citing pre-conditions for improved Tunisian-Libyan relations, Mr. Mzali said: "Libya should cease from interfering in Tunisian's internal affairs." He also called on Tripoli to return Tunisian assets in Libya that, he said, were confiscated following the expulsion of Tunisian workers. On his country's relations with



COMMEMORATIVE STAMP: The Ministry of Communications has issued commemorative stamps to mark the 70th anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt. The stamps, which bear the picture of Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali, the leader of the revolt and other scenes from the early days of the revolt, are of 40, 60, 160 and 200 fils denominations. The stamps have been distributed at all post offices in the Kingdom. Jordan celebrated the anniversary on Tuesday June 10.

Canada to increase economic assistance to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mr. Joe Clark, Canada's secretary of state for external affairs, has announced that Ottawa has decided to increase the level of its economic assistance to Jordan.

The decision, made after Mr. Clark's official visit to Jordan last April, illustrates Canada's desire to play a constructive and tangible role in the Middle East and to encourage the peace efforts in the region by giving political and economic support to a key Middle Eastern country willing to take risks for peace, according to a statement issued by the Canadian Embassy in Amman. This modest

but concrete assistance will not only support Jordan's development efforts, but also strengthen political and economic relations with Canada, both at the government and private levels, the statement continued.

Forum Humanum organises summer camp for youths

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Forum Humanum will organise a second gathering for Jordanian youths at Ajloun camp between June 14 and 20, according to an announcement made in Amman on Wednesday. The announcement said that the programme will include lectures on cultural subjects, the Great Arab Revolt, Jordan's economic experience, the five-year development plan, higher education and topics related to agriculture.

All the lectures will be given by specialists and experts, it added. "Apart from these lectures and seminars, the participants, mainly youths from Jordanian universities and community colleges, will make field trips to military positions, archaeological sites in the Kingdom and economic projects and will carry out voluntary services, the announcement continued. Forum Humanum is a national youth institution established in 1982 for the purpose of creating a nucleus of youth interested in discussing issues related to youth social problems and to open channels of communication with youths from Arab states, and other countries. The Jordan Forum Humanum has organised several lectures and seminars on Jordanian youth and also held a national camp in which youths from other Arab states took part. The camp was held in North Shumab earlier this year. The Jordan Forum Humanum is making preparations for holding the second pan-Arab camp in Jordan.

Wounded evacuated from camps

(Continued from page 1)

"These moments are historic... we thank both sides for their cooperation with us in reaching this ceasefire," Mr. Besharati told Reuters at a frontline Amal post. The ceasefire appeared shaky, however. Witnesses reported sporadic mortar explosions at Sabra and Shatila, where scores more wounded are believed trapped, and smoke from mortar bombs followed over Mr. Besharati's position as he monitored the evacuation with Amal and Palestinian officials. At one point, gunfire spattered

into the ground in front of a convoy of ambulances and Iranian, Palestinian and Amal officials, sending onlookers running for cover to battle-scarred buildings and huge sand barricades nearby. A Shi'ite militiaman said the shooting came from brothers and friends of an Amal fighter killed in battles last week. "There is blood between us... they killed my brother... I will never forgive them," said an Amal fighter. "This truce and any other truce will not work... the problem is not over," said a Shi'ite wounded hours earlier.

Waldheim assails Israel, WJC

(Continued from page 1)

as saying, "All these moves made the Israelis angry." Militant Rabbi Meir Kahane ripped up an Austrian flag on the floor of the Israeli parliament during a debate on Wednesday in which legislators denounced the election of Dr. Waldheim as Austria's president. "As just one man, all I can do is this, this and this," the extremist parliamentarian said as he tore the red and white flag at the speakers' platform. Rabbi Kahane then threw the shredded flag on the floor. A Knesset official cleaned up, putting the

strips in his drawer. Other parliamentarians, including Mr. Shamir, echoed the anti-Arab rabbi's sentiments. In Vienna, Ferdinand Lacina, minister of public economy and transport, on Wednesday decided to quit his post and retire into private life, his spokesman reported. He was the third minister stepping down after Chancellor Fred Sinowatz announced his resignation. The top level changes in the socialist-led coalition cabinet came in the wake of Dr. Waldheim's decisive victory in Sunday's presidential election.

King thanks officials for cables of congratulations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has sent a cable to Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali in reply to a cable which Mr. Majali sent on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr and Great Arab Revolt and Army Day. The King thanked the deputy prime minister and the ministers for their good wishes expressed in their cable to the King.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, sent a similar cable to the deputy prime minister in which he expressed his thanks and appreciation to Mr. Majali and cabinet members. The Crown Prince also wished Jordan continuing progress and prosperity under the King's leadership.

Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai has received cables of thanks from Sultan Qaboos of Oman, the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani and Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad in reply to the congratulatory cables which Mr. Rifai sent on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr. On this occasion, the prime minister also exchanged cables of congratulations with Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Ra'uf Al Kasem, Kuwait Prime Minister Sheikh Sa'ad Al Abdullah Salem Al Sabah, Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, Algerian Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Al Ibrahim and Omani Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Ibn Mahmoud Al Sa'idi.

Mr. Rifai also exchanged congratulatory cables on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr with the prime minister of South Yemen, the deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Arab League Secretary General Chadi Al Khlil, Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and Bahrajani Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa. The prime minister also received a cable of congratulations from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Centre to hold exhibition on transport

AMMAN (J.T.) — A week-long exhibition on means of transport in Jordan will open at the French Cultural Centre on Jabal Luweibdeh on Saturday June 14, under the patronage of Minister of Transport Rajai Dajani. The exhibition is organised by the French Cultural Centre in cooperation with the commercial section at the French Embassy in Amman.

SOS village opens its doors to orphaned, destitute children

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The newly-built SOS Children's Village in Amman has opened its doors and five orphaned children are now being cared for by trained "mothers" and preparations are underway for the village to receive as many as 100 homeless and destitute children.

So far, nine out of 11 homes have been built for housing the children and each "mother" running a home will be assigned between seven and nine children to care for, according to Mrs. In'am Al Mufti, director of the Queen Noor Foundation (QNF), which supervises the village through a special association.

Mrs. Mufti told the Jordan Times that towards the end of the summer the village's kindergarten will be formally opened and will serve both orphaned children and those living in the area of Tabarbour, north west of Amman. The orphaned children will be able to mix with children from the neighbourhood and this will help them to feel part of the rest of society, with no barriers whatsoever, Mrs. Mufti said.

She went on to say that the orphaned children of school age will later be able to join schools in Tabarbour, and other districts and return home to the security of the village at the end of the day. The village is ready to receive more children and special arrangements are being made to gather other eligible children and to house them in the village where they will have a proper home, Mrs. Mufti continued. Her Majesty Queen Noor, who is honorary chairperson of the SOS Children's Village Association, laid the corner stone for the village at Tabarbour in October 1984.

The village, set up on a 33 dunum area of land is a 10-minute drive from Al Hussein Youth City. The village is a project of the Kinderdorf-Verlag organisation which has its headquarters in Innsbruck, Austria, and which was founded by Herman Gemeiner. Jordan's SOS Children's Village is one of 87 villages around the world set up by this organisation with the aim of providing abandoned and orphaned children with a substitute for the home, mothers and families they have lost. SOS Middle East regional representative Wolfgang Von Nidda told the Jordan Times in an earlier interview that the village at Tabarbour accepts children from birth up to eight years and he explained that the children will be cared for in a family-like atmosphere with other "brothers" and "sisters" looked after by capable and trained "mothers". Apart from the homes, the village has a bakery, a supermarket, a staff house, a guest house and a



In'am Al Mufti

kindergarten. The life-line for the SOS Children's Village in Jordan is through generous donations and contributions from the Jordanian community. Contributions can be made in the form of donations, sponsoring a child and through shopping from the SOS Children's Village supermarket and bakery. Donations are to be sent to: SOS Children's Village Association, P.O. Box 19090, Amman - Jordan.



A "family house" in the S.O.S. Children's Village at Tabarbour where orphaned children are now being cared for.

Study cites family problems as a major factor in juvenile delinquency cases

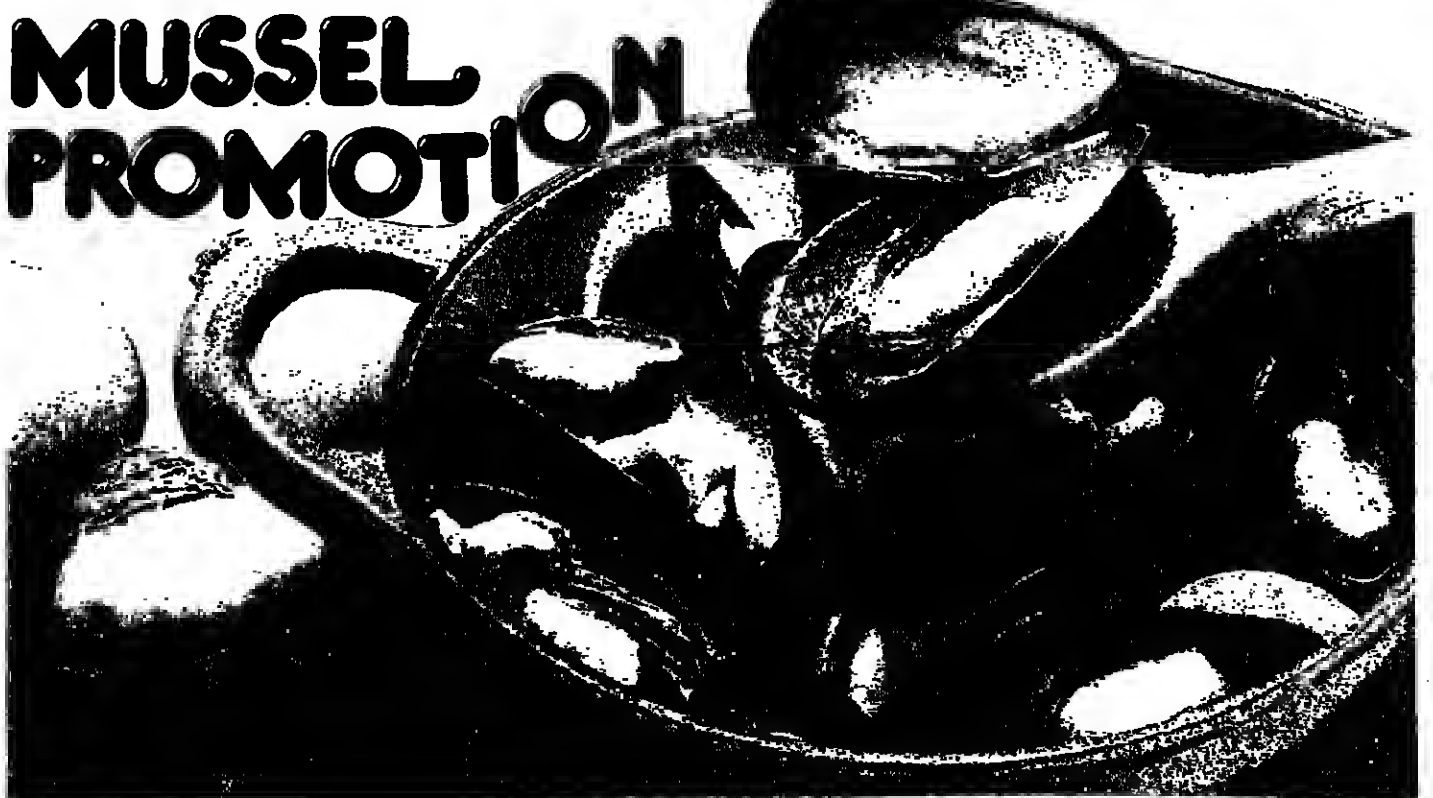
AMMAN (J.T.) — A study on juvenile delinquency in Jordan has revealed that there has been an annual average increase of 12.3 per cent in the number of juvenile delinquents in the country between 1965 and 1977. The study, compiled by the director of the social defence section at the Zarqa Social Development Department, said that the latest statistics on the number of delinquents in the country were issued in 1984 by the Ministry of Social Development, revealing that the registered number of delinquency cases was 3,461.

The study revealed that a host of factors may contribute towards children adopting abnormal behavioural patterns or delinquent activity. The report said that children who are born mentally unbalanced, who suffer from bodily deformations or who are obese or short etc. may adopt delinquent behaviour as a result of impulses triggered by their inferiority complexes.

There are other negative factors which may also contribute towards delinquency such as a difficult family life as a result of repression, divorce, family disintegration, parental separation, drunkenness,

the absence of the father from home, lack of security and stability, loss of parents and the presence of more than one wife for the father. These factors may contribute towards ill behaviour, aggressive attitudes and other forms of misconduct among children, the study said.

It went on to say that other reasons which may cause children to turn delinquent are poverty, long illness, the lack of a proper home life, bad friends and poor education. It said that juvenile delinquency can start at school, especially in children who play truant from classes without receiving punishment, neglect of school work, the absence of social guidance at school and the lack of cooperation between schools and parents.



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Opportunity for Washington

IN his recent interview with the Washington Post, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said he had become "bitter and disappointed" over the Reagan administration's policy of alternately ignoring and confronting Syria. Indeed, the U.S. approach towards Syria during the last four years is mystifying, and hardly merits the dignified term "policy", a word which suggests stability of thought and purpose. After the June 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz wholly ignored Syrian interests in crafting the May 17, 1983 agreement for peace between Lebanon and Israel, in spite of the presence of some 40,000 Syrian troops on Lebanese soil at the time. Predictably, the treaty was a dead letter before the ink on it dried, and was renounced as such less than a year later by Lebanese President Amin Gemayel. Though this outcome did not endear President Assad to Mr. Shultz, the U.S. response was not to raise the stakes but to abandon the deadly Lebanese game to Syrian, Israeli, and other local players. The facts on the ground eventually did force a grudging recognition by the Reagan administration of Syria's role and importance in Lebanon. This was shown by repeated U.S. requests for Syrian assistance in freeing American citizens held hostage in the Bekaa Valley, and most strikingly in the successful release of the TWA hijack victims last June. During the first half of 1986, however, the pendulum has swung back and forth as the Reagan administration alternately groups Syria with Libya and Iran in its denunciation of "state-sponsored terrorism," along with threats of Libyan-style punishment, and then praises the "constructive role" of Syria in attempting to free the American hostages in Lebanon. Though Mr. Shultz apparently does not see the contradiction here, President Assad is clear on the matter: "No one can do anything when the U.S. administration is carrying the banner of war ... It is very difficult to handle the question of the hostages in isolation from the U.S. political stand."

These oscillations in American policy stem from what may be termed the conflict between the paranoid and the pragmatic strains in the top leadership of the Reagan administration. The problem is particularly acute when these opposing approaches appear in the same man, which is the case with the U.S. secretary of state. The contradictions occur when one of the secretary's sides, or perhaps fellow cabinet member Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger, interrupts Mr. Shultz's personal crusade against "international terrorism" to remind him that Syria is 1) a confrontation state poised on Israel's northern border; 2) a powerful ally of the Soviet Union; and 3) in control of the territory in which American hostages are believed held in Lebanon.

So while the U.S. has warned that it would consider military strikes against Syria if evidence linked Damascus to terrorist operations, it will clearly demand much more conclusive proof of any such involvement than that which justified its April 15 attack on Libya. This is shown by the American apparent reluctance thus far to accept claims from Great Britain, West Germany, and Israel that Syria was involved in recent terrorist activities in Europe.

It was the paranoid strain that led to the decision to bomb Libya and to the near exclusive focus on the issue of terrorism at the recently concluded Tokyo summit. The threat of further unilateral military action by the U.S. helped force something of a consensus among leading European nations on diplomatic and economic measures to deter the sponsors of "international terrorism." Ironically, the Reagan administration's more recent pragmatic approach towards its relationship with Syria threatens to undo that consensus by undermining the "get tough" principles upon which it was based. While this has a positive side, in that the nations of Europe will have greater latitude in deciding their own approach to the issue of terrorism, the events of the last few months merely serve to confirm that the U.S. has no viable Middle East policy. Trapped by its unequal relationship with Israel, the United States has to do a lot more if it wants to avoid stirring the already muddy waters of this conflict-ridden region. And if Washington is really interested in expending a new effort at this, well, there is no better time to do it than now, when everybody is supposed to be reassessing his policy. It is with this in mind that we hope His Majesty the King's talks in the U.S. have influenced American attitudes towards Syria as well. Damascus can and should play a constructive role in bringing about a settlement, and it is up to the U.S. to recognise this role and to act on it in a positive spirit.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: A blow to Zionism

THE Austrian people have dealt a severe blow to the world Zionism, which had been blackmailing the European people for 40 years. They have chosen their president free of all pressure, thus casting away all forms of blackmail and adhering to the rules of justice and wisdom. With this free election the Zionists are witnessing the end of its conspiracies and blackmail in Europe. The Austrian people have exercised their freedom and free will, displaying to the whole world their keenness on fighting Zionist blackmail and all lies and falsehoods fabricated against their new leader. The Zionists have been practising their blackmail against the European people over the past 40 years, accusing them of being responsible for the sufferings of Jews and their displacement. It was natural for the Zionists to try this practice against the Austrian people in the presidential elections in order to thwart Kurt Waldheim's attempt to become president. It was natural also for the Zionists to accuse Dr. Waldheim of atrocities simply because this man was not born to serve the world Zionism's objectives. We hope that the Austrian example will be copied in all other European countries so that Europe can free itself once and for all from Zionist intimidation.

Al Dustour: Supporting the Great Arab Revolt

JORDAN yesterday celebrated the anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day, dear occasions for all citizens and significant landmarks in the Arab Nation's march towards unity and liberation. The Jordanian people were the first to back the revolt, led by the Sharif of Mecca, and to pledge total support for his children in implementing the principles and objectives of the revolt. On this occasion, Jordanians remember the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt and those of our countrymen who joined it and served as soldiers and warriors, fighting in defence of Arab land and with the purpose of fulfilling the revolt's objectives. Since the moment of the outbreak of the revolt the Jordanian people showed a favourable response to it, supporting its leaders and joining its forces. The armed forces built since the Great Arab Revolt have been offering services to the Arab Nation at large and defending the longest confrontation lines with the Israeli enemy. These armed forces, serving under the banner of their leader King Hussein, took part in numerous battles in defence of this Arab Nation and continue to thwart all enemy threats.

By Franz Schurmann

Is there movement towards peace in northeast Africa?

SAN FRANCISCO — A lot of secret diplomacy is going on in the Middle East. We know that from the visits of high ranking officials between world capitals. We read of the visit of Syria's President Hafez Al Assad to Greece and of King Hussein to Damascus. The Israeli prime minister is in and out of Washington. British Prime Minister Thatcher went to Israel.

But while these goings-and-comings are in the news, less well covered is another area of secret diplomacy in the Middle East. Reports coming from Cairo and carried in the May 26 issue of *Shariq Al Awsat* noted that Egypt is preparing to "mediate" between the Sudan and Ethiopia. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry hopes a conference will emerge attended by all three of these

northeast African powers, and that it might help resolve a bitter conflict that divides north and south in Sudan.

Two hundred years ago, one of the founding fathers of the United States said: "divided we fall, united we stand." He made this argument to support formation of a new American federation to unite the quarrelling thirteen colonies. Much the same might be said about the countries of the Middle East today, and about the Sudan, Ethiopia, and Egypt.

The West has been getting a lot of information on Ethiopia because of the famine. The Marxist government in Addis Ababa is threatened by two major rebellions. It has relocated thousands of peasants from the north to the south. As a result, many have died. There

is little likelihood that the government could be toppled, but it and the country it rules are in bad shape.

Egypt does not have famine but it has great poverty. There are many Western observers who worry about the stability of the government of President Mubarak.

The Sudan is perhaps in the most precarious position of all. An active rebellion is raging in the south, headed by a strong leader named John Garang. The rebellion has ancient roots, and can be briefly summed up as a clash between the more populous but poorer Islamic north and the less populous but richer non-Islamic south.

But what has complicated the rebellion is the fact that Garang has been operating out

of Ethiopia and, apparently, with the support of the Addis Ababa government. Garang has opposition not just from the Islamic north but from other groups, movements, and parties in the south. That makes him more dependent on Ethiopian help. And, of course, it is that dependency which may give the Egyptians hope that the conflict can be settled through a tripartite meeting of three powers whose own relations with each other have not been good.

At the same time, Sudan's new government headed by Sadiq Al Mahdi seems ready to convene a constitutional convention which would include all elements of Sudan's politics and which would seek to restore the unity of the country. Garang, so far, has refused to

join such a convention. But it seems that Egypt may hope that a tripartite accord between the Sudan, Ethiopia, and Egypt might help persuade Garang to change his mind.

In the world of today, the internal stability of a country often depends on external as well as internal factors. Clearly if Al Mahdi could bring into being a successful constitutional convention, then that would be of great benefit to the people of the Sudan. But that success may also depend on some new understandings between the powers in the region.

But Ethiopia is close to the Soviets, and Egypt close to the Americans. And the new government in the Sudan has assumed a more in-between position. That may imply that an

understanding between the three northeastern African powers may ultimately depend on an understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Nevertheless, without internal unity, a real settlement of grievances, democratic representation for all, and some way to resolve the dispute between the different regions of the country, an international accord will mean nothing. Both the internal and the external understandings have to go hand in hand.

The success or failure ... or simple irrelevance ... of what is now going on in northeastern Africa may provide an indication as to how ... or not ... the much more difficult and complex issues of the Middle East might be resolved.

Uncovering France's terrorists: The anatomy of one sect

In their struggle against the *nest* terrorists, French police on March 28 arrested André Olivier, his girlfriend Joëlle Crepet, and Bernard Blanc — allegedly members of the terrorist organisation *Action Directe*. The arrests, along with ten suitcases of papers and files seized at the same time, have offered revealing insights into the methods and motives of French terrorists. One remarkable characteristic of this French group is its political isolation from the common front in which it operates.

By Edwy Plenel

Painstaking researches

LYONS — The investigation began in January 1985, the day after the assassination of Engineer-General René Audran, the Defence Ministry's director of international affairs. With this killing, *Action Directe* signalled its murderous radicalisation, proclaiming at the same time its merger with the revived West German *Rote Armee Fraktion* (RAF). UCLAF, the government unit responsible for coordinating the antiterrorist struggle, headed by François Le Moutel, increasingly felt that *Action Directe* had split into two groups, and this practically since 1982 following violent internal debates.

On one side is an international branch warring to step up the armed struggle against the "Americanisation" of Europe. It has lined up with other terrorist groups like *Prima Linea* and *C.O.P.* in Italy, the *CCC* in Belgium and the *RAF* in West Germany and no longer hesitates to attack individual targets. On the other side is a national (French) branch which has hewed faithfully to the aims of the original *Action Directe* of 1974-1980 which are, basically, to hit at buildings that symbolise French policy and also carry out daring hold-ups. The problem was to pick up the trail of the two branches when the last round of arrests in December 1984 (after which 20 *Action Directe* members were gaoled) had severed some of the strings the police had been pulling.

There was only one way — by examining the group's record. UCLAF's specialists decided to go through the operational services to pick up the tracks of the few persons of whom nothing had been heard for several years. For the international branch, they took up all the names that cropped up in the '70s in connection with demonstrations supporting the Baader-Meinhof gang. So far, this seems not to have produced any major results. For the national branch, they turned up with three names — Pascal Magron, Eric Moreau and André Olivier. Magron was tracked down: he was dying of cancer in a Marseilles hospital. Moreau is also said to be in poor health and has at present gone underground in a Central American country. There remained André Olivier.

The Arrest

It was quite easy for the police to discover his wife (whom he had not divorced) in Lyons. Gradually they noticed that Olivier had kept in close touch with his daughter Anne, now 16, and that he regularly met her in Lyons during school holidays. It was therefore decided to use the opportunity to begin trailing him. A first attempt in February failed. A second attempt, with substantial reinforcements from Paris, was made on the eve of the Easter break. Olivier arranged a meeting with this daughter in an underground car park near the Lyons-Perrache railway station.

She had just got into the car when Olivier and his companion, Bernard Blanc, noticed they were being trailed. A chase ensued. Preferring not to lose him, the police tried to arrest him. They were lucky. Olivier and Blanc did not use their guns for fear of risking Anne's life. Moreover, the girl had thrown herself against her father, preventing him from firing. Both men wore bulletproof vests and carried a Colt 45, a revolver, a P-38 "special" and an Uzi machine-pistol. The car's number plates were faked and the vehicle contained all the paraphernalia, such as wigs, masks and so on, necessary for a hold-up.

which it described as the victim of a "capitalist swindle," with Poland: "All France supports the Polish people and demands liberty and independence. But what about the DOM-TOM (France's overseas *departments* and territories) and African countries?"

The police say the group's involvement in these crimes was established when they discovered, during the searches, handwritten copies of the bills and photos of the hostages who were taken during the hold-ups. It was only after 1982, when its main Paris organisers went underground again, that *Action Directe* offered a new name to the Lyons group. Police found at Joëlle Crepet's home documents taking responsibility for some 15 attacks using explosives that had been claimed by *Action Directe*; attacks committed in the Paris region between 1983 and 1985. Among the targets was the headquarters of the Socialist Party and Jacques Chirac's RPR (Rassemblement pour la République), the premises of the weekly *Minute* (a rightwing publication) and the Office National de l'Immigration. In line with the documents put out by *Affiche Rouge*, the connecting thread in all these attacks was the condemnation of "French colonialism and imperialism," racism and militarism.

Despite the copiousness of the material found — it is still being examined — Lyons magistrates are cautious: "Everything that has not been proved is discounted in the investigation, and claiming responsibility for a crime does not mean its perpetrators have been identified." But they are convinced the dossier could only become more and more complete as the appraisals and cross-checking advance. It is in this way that police uncovered Emile Ballandras, 37, who has now been charged with conspiracy in connection with the Olivier investigation.

The Ballandras connection

Ballandras was gaoled for 12 years on January 28 by the Rhone court for a hold-up and subsequent taking of hostages that he carried out alone on October 10, 1984. On the face of it, Ballandras looks like an ordinary criminal. But he is not. In 1971 he gave up his studies in industrial engineering and became a factory worker out of militant conviction. Nicknamed "Paulo," he joined Olivier and Ferret in a group known as the *Collectif d'Etudes Materialistes* run by a sociology professor at Lyons University and got into the hands of the State Security Court. In 1981 he abruptly quit his job as an unskilled assembly worker at the CGE-Alsthom plant, telling people close to him that he was "followed by the Renseignement General" (police special branch). He next dropped in a lone hold-up he committed at a branch of the Societe Lyonnaise bank which netted him F160,000 (£16,500). The job had been impeccably carried out and carried out with remarkable self-possession. But he made one mistake: he stayed 16 minutes in the bank.

Caught as he came out, he made no secret of this "revolutionary" convictions, but gave no political excuse for the hold-up. No place of residence could be established for him for the period 1981 to 1984. And this mystery led to his being given a stiffer sentence than called for by the public prosecutor. Ballandras refused to say anything. Olivier's arrest helped to throw light on these three years underground, all the more so as Ballandras was found to have an impressive set of keys, evidence of which could not be introduced into his trial. Those keys must have been "spoken". Ballandras was one of the group, say investigators. But was he trying to leave the group in 1984 by carrying out one last resounding coup — a lone hold-up that in no way bore the stamp of the usual terrorist operation?

Altogether Olivier's group consisted of less than ten people, five

of whom have now been identified. For the moment there is nothing to connect the group to other terrorist networks, especially international networks, in spite of catch-all rumours in Lyons.

It is then a tiny group, turned in on itself and efficient because of its compactness. "We're a long way from the theory of a movement," says a Lyons magistrate. "Five intelligent and well-prepared persons can wreak havoc in Lyons. And, to be successful, it's better to be just five."

The group's leader

Who is André Olivier, this 43-year-old who has been suddenly thrust into the forefront of the police investigation? The investigators have their answer which they know they can back up: Olivier is apparently one of the main pillars of *Action Directe*'s national branch. What else? Here is Olivier's itinerary and what it teaches us of French terrorism.

People who met him in the early '70s in the then "unofficial" hotbed (of dissent) at the Lyons II faculty, in committees working to support the launching of the daily *Liberation*, or in the *Comite d'action des prisonniers* (CAP) do not have a kind word for him.

"I remember him as a hard, biting and authoritative fellow, quite close to being unpleasant," says one. "He never managed to assert himself as a militant," added another. "Which accounts for his desire for adventure, his tendency to take refuge on the fringes. He was cruel, brutal and terrorised you."

But they are all agreed, right down to this ex-Maoist militant woman who did not want to "accuse him, rubbish him," but remains faithful to her memories, that "he had a rather dreadful character and was not given to talking."

At the end of 1972, Olivier nevertheless emerged from militant anonymity. He was then a certified teacher of French at the Lyons Lycee Technique des Industries Metallurgiques, the "Czechoslovakian" lycee (i.e. dissenters). Pursuing the thinking that gave rise to *Changer l'Ecole*, he wanted to "submit the contents of teaching to the judgment of life," confront literary texts with the reality, show his pupils how to strip down a moped just as much as to read George Sand, to get out of the classroom and meet farmers and workers ... It was a provocative move going well beyond the challenges mounted to new teaching methods, and moreover

known to have any particular political commitments, except for taking part in the "Changer l'Ecole" group, which emerged in 1968 and brought together people from student, union and political horizons. *Changer l'Ecole* was the left's left rather than the far left. The group's aim was to transform the school context, activate dissent on curricula and initiate experiments, such as in marking school work. One of the group's participants recalled that Olivier was "someone who was rather violent in his aspirations. Not very politicised ... It was a rather a question of temperament ..."

With hindsight, Olivier then appears as a person out of step with the generation that discovered radical commitment. Born in 1943, he was older than the student generation. He was apparently also more settled. In 1968 he was teaching French, married and father of a girl.

After his experiences in *Changer l'Ecole*, in 1971-1972 Olivier clung to the waning Maoist movement. He was regarded with some suspicion, especially as there were rumours he had been sympathetic to the cause of French Algeria and the extreme right when he was a lycée pupil. "We didn't know much about him, he was a latecomer. He said very provocative things, not very political, extravagant." What he said annoyed the Maoists who, rallying behind the *Liberation* adventure, were gradually abandoning violent action as a political option. The suspicions were reinforced during the "People's Holidays" the Maoists organised in the Drome for immigrant families in summer 1972. Olivier took an active part in the work. "He wanted to impose his view on things, regardless of the group. He was a leader without a following, a loner and an individualist. As if he had to make up for the time he had lost."

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England's Liberal-SPD alliance faces rift

By Harvey Morris

Reuter

LONDON — The electoral alliance between the Liberal and Social Democratic Parties, the so-called third force in British politics, is under threat because of differences over nuclear defence policy.

Whether to retain or scrap Britain's independent deterrent has always been the most potentially divisive question for the two allies, who are united in seeking to steer a centre course between the right-wing Conservative Party of prime minister Margaret Thatcher and the left-wing Labour Party.

Fresh trouble surfaced last week when the Social Democratic Party (SDP) leader, David Owen, set out his strong belief in an independent and modernised deterrent in the course of a foreign policy speech in Bonn.

Owen has already earned the resentment of rank-and-file Liberals, not only for what is seen as his increasingly right-wing outlook on a number of key issues but also because of an alleged personality cult which Liberals believe has eclipsed their own leader, David Steel.

This time, however, Owen also managed to upset members of his

own party, in part because his Bonn speech pre-empted a joint alliance report that was expected to recommend a flexible nuclear policy that would be refined around election time in the light of the prevailing international situation.

Four members of the SDP National Committee put their names to letters published Tuesday in the centre-left *Guardian* newspaper that were critical of Owen.

One letter states that its three signatories "joined the SDP to get away from the lack of respect for other people's opinion that has so damaged recent British political life."

David Marquand, a former parliamentarian and like Owen a defector from the Labour Party, wrote in a separate letter that Owen could not be said to be speaking for the membership of the SDP until the party had an opportunity to debate the matter.

Both the alliance parties contain supporters and opponents of the British nuclear deterrent. But disarmers are in the majority in the Liberal Party, which has a strong non-conformist and even pacifist tradition, although Steel himself argues for retention of Britain's ageing Polaris missile system.

The SDP was formed in 1981 by

Owen and other members of the Labour Party who opposed a leftwards shift that encompassed what they saw as a drift towards unilateralism. Since then, Labour has adopted a non-nuclear defence policy.

In his Bonn speech, which backed a replacement for Polaris, although not the costly Trident system that the Thatcher government has ordered, Owen drew on a declaration of last year's SDP conference that declared "Social Democrats would not abandon Britain's existing nuclear capability and are willing to replace Polaris."

Steel was scathing about Owen's intervention when he was questioned about it during a weekend television interview, and said a split could spell electoral disaster for the alliance.

"I don't think we could go into an election with one set of candidates saying one thing and another set saying another. It would not be the end of the world but it would be pretty close to it," Steel said.

He was referring to the arrangement whereby the alliance partners, while retaining their separate identities, share the seats to be fought at a general election and support each other.

The prized traits that make an Arabian

The following article is the second of a two-part series on Arabian horses and the characteristics that have brought them worldwide fame. The first article on Jordan's efforts to maintain the purity of Arabian horses in its native habitat appeared in Wednesday's issue of the Jordan Times.

Text and photos
By Rami G. Khouri

LEGEND has it that the Arabian's most distinctive and treasured characteristics, its good nature and patience, result from thousands of years of literally living with its human owners. In its original desert habitat, the Arabian sheltered from the sun under the same tent as its master, and from its birth it associates human beings with companionship, food, water and affectionate care.

It is also said that the Arabian's bloodline is traced through its mother because the desert bedouins valued mares over stallions. A mare would not only produce new generations, but was reputed to be more manageable in warfare, and less likely to give away one's position by an unbending and noisy fit of excitability.

The desert Arabians traditionally were seen to be smaller than their counterparts in Europe and North America, but this is now thought to reflect the desert's lack of sufficient food throughout the year.

Fed four times daily on alfalfa, barley, bran and fresh spring grass, Jordan's horses have grown to a full height over the years. The dry climate has also maintained their prized "dry" look, in contrast to the slightly heavier and fleshier Arabians in Europe and North America.

A few of the Jordanian horses that were allowed to race regularly in the early 1970s also grew taller than the others, suggesting that Middle Eastern Arabians may not have been sufficiently exercised in the past.

The Jordanian state stud horses no longer race, nor are they used for trekking or polo. Several are being trained for dressage competitions, and Princess Alia hopes to enter some of the horses into international Arabian horse shows in the near future.

Mrs. Lopez is particularly proud that she has never had a horse with asthma or broken-windedness, which she attributes to the fine climate of Jordan's highlands. Her breeding programme aims to maintain and accentuate the traditional physical and temperamental features of the pure Arabian.

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Until 1967, the horses used to winter every year in the Jordan Valley town of South Shubneh, near the Dead Sea. At nearly 400 metres below sea level, the lowest spot on earth, the valley provided a warm winter climate that the horses took to with great enthusiasm.

During the 1967 Middle Eastern war, however, they were dangerously close to the battlefield. When the fighting threatened the stables one night in June 1967, the Lopez, Mr. Taha and all the stable boys each hurriedly rode a horse out of the danger zone and into the safety of the eastern hills. Because there were more horses than riders, several dozen steeds were set loose and galloped freely alongside the riders, until all 50 horses were safely regrouped in the nearby town of Na'ur. The whole rescue operation took nearly a week, Mrs. Lopez recalls today.

On the first day, the most prized mares were evacuated to the hills in several Jordanian army trucks. Over the next five days, the rest of the horses were ridden or driven to Na'ur and the Wadi Shu'eib area. The evacuation was a grueling experience for horses and riders, for in some cases they had to ride 12 hours to reach the safety of Amman — a ride that included a 1200-metre rise in altitude.

The Arabian horse's characteristic physical traits include the concave, or dished, face, a high tail carriage, broad forehead, large jaw and small muzzle, the big, low-set eyes, smallish, pointed ears, fine but strong bones and tendons, a long but slightly curved neck, and a short back (with 23 instead of the usual 24 vertebrae).

Mrs. Lopez also notes that in a true Arabian, the distance from the top of the ear to the eye should equal the distance from the eye to the top of the nostrils.

Appearing to 'float'

One of the most prized characteristics of the best Arabians is how they appear to "float" when they trot, with their four legs suspended magically in mid-air for a brief moment.

Compared to other breeds, the Arabian has a larger windpipe set at a different angle, allowing it to ride head up into the wind. Along with its speed, this may have given the Arabian the name "drinker of the wind."

The stable hands at Hammar speak with obvious awe about the speed of the 17-year-old grey stallion Thamin. "He'd beat any racing horse in the land if we ever allowed him on a racetrack," says Mr. Sa'id Taha. "But we're not producing racing horses. We're interested only in breeding the best possible Arabian horses and training them for riding."

The newborn horses are kept with their mothers for six months, before being given their own stalls. Mares are first ridden at the age of four, and stallions at the age of three. Each horse is ridden for two hours a day, either early in the morning or near dusk. One of the truly beautiful sights for horse lovers is to catch a glimpse of a dozen or more horses being ridden out of the Hammar stables in the clear and quiet of an early summer morning, heading for a gallop over the thickly wooded hills of the area.

Their proper care and diet, combined with Jordan's ideal climate, gives them an average lifespan of nearly 25 years. More difficult to pinpoint are Arabian's unique character and temperament, which have given rise over the millennia to its special place in the lore of the Arabian lands. Besides being loyal, gentle and affectionate, the best Arabian is prized for being even-tempered, strong, intelligent, courageous, fast and durable.

Endurance and stamina

Endurance and stamina are among the Arabian's highest virtues, and help explain its pride of place among desert Arabs. Members of the Royal Jordanian Riding Club once rode their Arabians on a trip in 1972 that took them from Amman to Azraq, nearly 100 kilometres across the eastern Jordanian desert.

During the 13-hour trek, the horses stopped only twice en route, for food and water. The late King Talal, sometimes with his young son, Hussein, joining them, rode part of the way, often stopping between the Basma stables and the Royal Mounted Guards headquarters at Zerga, a distance of 25 kilometres.

In an even more ambitious demonstration of the Arabian's endurance and durability, two French riders set off in 1982 to set a new world's record by riding Arabian horses on a 22,000-kilometre circuit around the Mediterranean Sea. Starting in southern France, 38-year-old Jean-Claude Cazade and 23-year-old Pascale Franconie rode their white steeds El Merindian and El Mzina across southern Europe,



An Arabian horse 'floats' with its four legs in the air.

Turkey, Syria, Jordan and into Saudi Arabia, covering nearly 10,000 kilometres.

They could not complete the journey through Egypt and North Africa because health regulations would not have allowed them to take the horses back into France, so they rode back to Jordan and returned to Europe with their horses by air.

They covered an average of 45 kilometres a day, stopping to rest the five-and-a-half-year-old horses every fifth day. The horses reached Saudi Arabia in fine shape, and would have completed the journey with ease, the riders said.

"Even though we could not complete our original plan," Mr. Cazade said in an interview, "we have clearly demonstrated that contrary to popular belief in the West, the Arabian horse is a beautiful animal that can carry a heavy load, for a long distance, and over an extended period of time."

It is feats of this sort that have generated the Arabian's reputation among Middle Eastern people since its first days. Its origin, though, is clouded by the haze of legend and time.

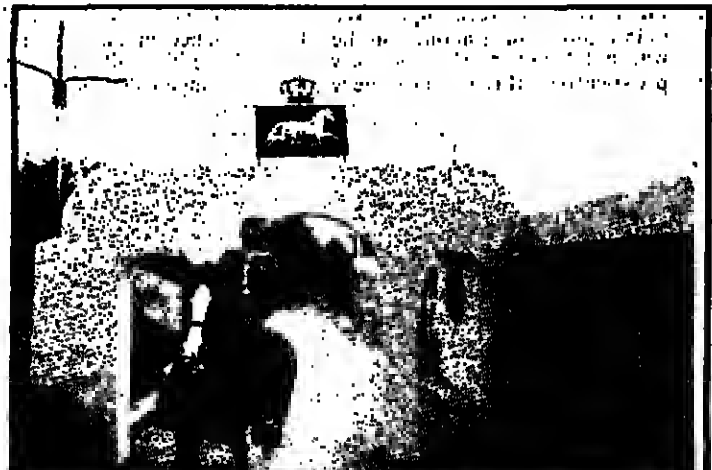
Various theories say the Arabian, or Equus Arabicus, originated in the central Nejd desert of Saudi Arabia, in the Mesopotamian mountain regions, or in the deserts of Egypt, at least 4000 years ago.

Arabs believe the Arabian descended from one of the seven horses owned by the Prophet Muhammad. Islamic tradition, recorded in the Koran, says God created the Arabian from a handful of the South Wind, with the words: "I have created you, Arabian horse; I have moulded you from the wind. I have tied Good Fortune to your mane; you will fly without wings; you will be the noblest among animals."

The prophet Mohammad, known to have valued the Arabian, once said that "wealth is knotted to the foreheads of horses until the day of judgement."

The Royal Jordanian State Stud also includes a growing collection of original saddles from all parts of the world, mostly gifts to the royal family from fellow horse enthusiasts. The saddle museum, like the stud itself, can be visited by prior appointment.

Among the collection are some rare and beautiful saddles from Libya, Morocco, Bahrain, Syria, Algeria, Mexico, the United States and Spain. Two antique, 102-year-old black Circassian saddles and an original local bedouin saddle dating from the early days of this century attest to the fine craftsmanship that has always accompanied the care and use of horses in the land of Jordan. Standard English saddles are used for riding the horses today.



Entrance to the Royal Jordanian State Stud.



Jean-Claude Cazade and Pascale Franconie and their Arabian horses, during a stopover in Jordan in 1982 while on their circuit around the Mediterranean Sea.

Villagers desert homes, fields as Sikh campaign escalates

By Brahma Chellaney
Associated Press

KOJEWALE, India — Fields go untended in this village in the heartland of India's "green revolution" and farmhouses are locked and deserted.

Eighteen of Kojewale's 50-to-60 families have fled to escape escalating Sikh terrorist attacks in the countryside of India's Punjab state.

Kojewale is just one example of the widespread flight of Hindus from the western Punjab countryside, where Sikh extremists have established rule by the gun.

Authorities say thousands of Hindus have fled other villages in much of Punjab in recent weeks.

The state's administration and its 18 million citizens are caught in a cycle of fear. The police, who are mostly Sikhs, are unwilling to pursue extremists for fear of reprisals; citizens also fear reprisals if they report to the police, because some police are in league with the militants.

The fear and suspicion have brought local government to a virtual standstill in the several regions where most of the recent killings in Punjab have occurred. About 200 people have been gunned down in the state this year.

The writ of the government no longer runs in some areas, said K.P.S. Pawar, a state commissioner. "Villagers don't come forward to catch the killers or provide information to police. The police themselves are afraid to pursue terrorists. No killer is arrested, no murder is investigated."

Pratap Singh, a Sikh who lives in Kojewale, summed up the attitude of villagers: "Why should we stick our neck out unnecessarily?"

Other Sikh villagers, however, are openly sympathetic to the extremists, drawn by the militants' promises to restore the "lost honour" of the Sikh nation in Punjab. Most Sikhs and Hindus interviewed in the countryside complained of connivance with extremists by some police.

"The police force has gone bad," said J.P. Bhardi, police chief in Gurdaspur, Punjab's most lawless region. "In my career, I have never seen such rapid deterioration in the force."

"If the lower ranks of the Punjab police decide to deal firmly with terrorists, I'm quite sure they will finish them in a week's time," he said.

He added that like the rest of the population, his men also were afraid of extremist attacks, especially those prompted by tip-offs provided by colleagues with links to the militants. Fear has gone so deep into the Hindu minority that most do not leave their homes "even in daylight."

"In Kojewale, we are afraid even to work in our fields," said Sube Ram, a 42-year-old farmer. "Our women don't go out of home now."

In an attempt to contain the violence, the Punjab state government run by Sikh moderates decided in April to set up village defence militias by providing guns to eight men in every hamlet.

However, no villager, neither Sikh nor Hindu, so far has agreed to accept a gun.

"If we keep a rifle at home, we are sure to become the targets of extremists," said Balwinder Singh, 22, a Sikh resident of Kojewale. "They will surely get to know from their sources in the police the names of those who have taken government guns, and they will come and kill us."

Another resident, Dharam Das, 40, a Hindu, said: "Joining a village militia will be like signing your death warrant."

Many of those who so far have not fled Sikh areas in the countryside to the Hindu towns have started growing beards and wearing short turbans to look like Sikhs, whose religion forbids men to cut their hair or beards.

"If a beard and a turban can save your life, why not wear them?" said Tarseen Lal, a retired police man.

The local barber, Babu Ra n, 38, himself has a beard. Trimming the beard of a customer at his open-air shop under a village tree, Mr. Ram said: "Even Hindus are trying to pass off as Jathedars (Sikh leaders)."

The militant Sikhs, whose religion is an offshoot of Hinduism, also are cementing their grip by demanding money from Hindus and their fellow Sikhs. It is quite common for them to telephone a wealthy businessman and order him to pay a hefty sum of money or to leave within a week.

"They threatened to slit me into a dozen pieces if I didn't give them 10,000 rupees (\$888). I had no option but to pay," said Mr. Sham Lal, a Hindu trader of nearby Batala.

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Mies's architectural influence lives on

By Lisa Vaughan
Reuters

CHICAGO — For the architect whose stark blocks revolutionised cityscapes the world over, the acclaim showered on Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe in his centennial year is anything but spare.

On the 100th anniversary of his birth, the German-born Mies is widely recognised by architects and critics as the most influential architect of the 20th century.

As Mies's adopted home and the city that boasts the greatest concentration of his buildings in the world, Chicago is celebrating his centenary with a busy schedule of exhibits, lectures, symposia and special architecture tours.

"Mies is the standard by which architecture is judged before or since... because he represented the quintessentially modernist point of view that dominated the 20th century," said Mr. Franz Schulze, Chicago art historian and

author of a biography of Mies published last year.

Mies, a cigar-smoking, deliberate man who was a meticulous architect, artist, thinker and educator, led the tide of modernism with giants Frank Lloyd Wright and Le Corbusier.

His trademarks — the simple, unadorned box structure, often with an exterior skeleton, abundant use of glass and steel and a near-worship of wide-open interior spaces — gave rise to hundreds of imitations by his students and competitors.

Mies's bronze and amber Seagram Tower in New York, the glass Farnsworth House in Plano, Illinois, and the newly rebuilt Barcelona pavilion in Spain are applauded as some of his greatest achievements.

Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art is honouring Mies with the most extensive exhibition about his work ever shown. It includes a display of his mas-

terful Barcelona pavilion, a stunning one-storey building of right angles and planes and a flat roof, made from opulent materials such as marble, onyx, travertine, green and grey glass and chrome.

Also featured are his \$60-\$80 Lake Shore Drive glass high-rise apartment blocks in Chicago, considered daringly unique when they were built in the late 1940s.

Mies was born in Germany on March 27, 1886. He rose to fame as a young man in Germany in the 1920s for his designs of then-radical all-glass skyscrapers; and low, flat-topped country houses, offices and administration buildings.

He served as the third and last director of the famous Bauhaus school, but was forced to close the design institute under Nazi pressure in 1933.

Mies emigrated to the United States in 1938 to take up an appointment as architecture school director at Illinois Institute of

Technology (IIT) in Chicago, where he lived the rest of his life. He died in 1969.

At IIT, he designed and built a comprehensive campus plan which centred on his philosophy of structural order, the rationale that guided his designs for the rest of his career.

"By using steel and glass in his rectilinear designs, he felt he was mirroring the spirit of the times," Mr. Schulze told Reuters. "He wanted his buildings to stand for truth, and to proceed from the essence of structure."

By the late 60s and early 70s, when the repetitious "Miesian boxes" seemed likely to overrun U.S. cities, the architecture world reacted strongly against Mies's minimalist designs. The backlash was termed "postmodernism" — an ornate and often whimsical style.

"The reaction against Mies was justified," Mr. Schulze said.

IOC offers compromise in hope of saving Games

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — The Olympic Games governing body Wednesday proposed that North Korea host table tennis and archery at the 1988 Summer Games set for Seoul, South Korea, in an attempt to fend off a threatened boycott.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch told a news conference this was the "final offer" of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to head off a boycott by North Korea, which has demanded an equal share in running the Games.

Samaranch set a June 30 deadline for North and South Korea to accept the IOC proposal.

"If not, I am sorry, this is the end," he said after two days of talks with presidents of the National Olympic Committees of the two Koreas.

The IOC also proposed that the 100 kilometre cycle road race start in the North and finish in Seoul, and that one of the four groups in the soccer competition play in the North Korean capital, Pyongyang.

In return, North Korea would have to drop all other demands and agree to open its tightly-guarded border to "all members of the Olympic family."

Samaranch said this referred to some 30,000 people accredited to the Olympics, such as athletes, trainers, National Olympic Committee members and reporters.

The question of spectators crossing the border would be discussed only after the IOC offer was accepted, he said.

The Korean peninsula was divided into communist North and capitalist South in 1945 after World War Two. The two countries fought a fierce war between 1950-53.

Samaranch said if the offer is accepted by the governments of both sides he will call a fourth round of talks, possibly by late July, to work out "all necessary organisational and operational aspects."

The IOC offer fell well-short of the initial North Korean demands when the Games were awarded to Seoul in 1981.

North Korea has demanded a joint Korean name for the Games, a joint organising committee and a joint opening ceremony.

None of these demands would be met under the Samaranch compromise. He said the opening and closing ceremonies would be held in Seoul.

The South Korean delegation praised the IOC plan but said the decision on acceptance would have to be taken by the Seoul government.

"We see this as a positive proposal and we endorse it in order to save the Olympic Games," Man-Lip Choy, the vice-president of the South Korean Olympic Committee, told reporters.

North Korean delegates said only that the proposal would be studied by their government.

An official IOC source said it was assumed the Pyongyang government would have to consult Moscow, a close ally and strong supporter of the North Korean position on the Games.

The source, who has been close to the talks, said Moscow would have to decide whether a boycott served its political interests and whether such East Bloc allies as Poland and Czechoslovakia would go along.

Asked why he was setting a deadline on IOC mediation with the Olympics two years off, Samaranch said: "We must be able to show the world now that we have solved this problem and all nations will be at the Games."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Danish midfielder to miss Friday's match

QUERETARO, Mexico (AP) — Danish midfielder Jens-Jorn Bertelsen, who suffered an ankle injury in Sunday's Group E match against Uruguay, says he is feeling a "little bit better" and hopes to play in the second round of the World Cup. "I'm still unable to walk, but I feel I have more mobility in my right ankle," Bertelsen said in an interview Tuesday. The 34-year-old veteran was injured early in the second half after being tackled by Uruguay's Jorge Da Silva. An X-ray later showed that no bones were broken. The Danish World Cup rookies whipped Uruguay 6-1 Sunday after edging Scotland 1-0 earlier and top Group E with four points going into Friday's last round-robin match with West Germany here.

Scotland's Nicholas may be fit for Friday

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Scotland striker Charlie Nicholas has made a rapid recovery from an ankle ligament injury and could be available to start if his team qualifies for the second round of the World Cup. Nicholas was assisted from the field during Scotland's 1-0 defeat against Denmark last Wednesday and manager Alex Ferguson said the injury would rule the Arsenal forward out of the rest of the tournament. Nicholas resumed jogging on Monday, however, after surprising doctors with the speed of his progress. Ferguson said Nicholas could even come under consideration for Friday's final Group F match against Uruguay if he continued to improve.

Passarella to miss second round

MEXICO CITY (R) — Veteran defender Daniel Passarella may not be fit to play in the World Cup until the semi-final stage because of a pulled leg muscle, the president of the Argentine Football Association said Tuesday. "The injury is serious and he is 90 per cent certain to miss the second round match and perhaps the one after that," Julio Grondona told Reuters. Passarella, Argentina's 1978 World Cup captain, was injured in training last Sunday, only two days after recovering from the stomach complaint which had kept him sidelined since the tournament began on May 31.

Spain won't underestimate Algeria

By Timothy Collings
Reuter

MONTERREY, Mexico — Spain are confident they can overcome the heat and a rugged Algerian defence in their last World Cup Group D match at the Tecnológico Stadium Thursday.

Although they will be without dynamic midfielder Rafael Gordillo, who severely bruised his left leg in the 2-1 win over Northern Ireland, Spain arrived here in buoyant mood, relishing the chance to clinch their place in the next round and erase memories of their disappointment in 1982.

Midfielder Michel said Spain would not underestimate Algeria, who demonstrated their defensive skills in resisting Brazil for so long before being beaten 1-0 and in holding Northern Ireland 1-1.

"It will be a difficult match," he said. "On paper it looks like our easiest fixture, but we saw them play Brazil and they did not deserve to lose. Against Northern Ireland they played well in a good match," Michel added.

Michel said: "We shall have to be careful not to concede an early goal, but to play to win. We know we are close to ensuring our qualification for the second round, but we must make sure."

Coach Miguel Munoz, who took over the team from Jose Santamaría following Spain's dismal showing on home soil four years ago, is faced with only one selection problem. He is unlikely to make drastic changes to a team which has promised to develop into one of the most powerful in the tournament.

Gordillo, who was feared to have broken his leg until X-rays showed no fracture, was able to jog during light training Tuesday and hopes to return to the line-up later in the competition. His place will be taken by Ramon Caldera of Barcelona, who came on as a substitute against Northern Ireland.

Algeria, who surprised the soccer world when they beat West Germany 2-1 in the 1982 finals, are like Morocco, no longer untested outsiders. They will be striving at least for a draw in the hope of overhauling Northern Ireland, who meet Brazil in Guadalajara at the same time.

Algeria are bottom of the group on goal difference but level on one point with the Irish. Coach Rabah Saadane did not disclose his line-up when his squad arrived Tuesday.

But Algeria may find the heat of Monterrey to their liking and seek to turn it to their advantage by trying to run their Spanish rivals off their feet.

Their squad includes 10 players with European league experience and in Lakhdar Belloumi they have a player capable of undoing the finest defences.

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ANNOUNCEMENT
Due to the serious economic problems in the Philippines, the embassy wishes to announce that it will not hold a reception to commemorate the 88th anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence. However, in gratitude to God for the restoration of freedom and democracy in the country, and to the many friends who gave their moral and spiritual support during the most critical period of the history of the Philippines, the embassy will donate whatever little money it has to the Orphanage of Mabarrat Um El-Hussein.

THE Daily Crossword by James R. Burns

ACROSS
1 The two
5 Theda Bara
9 Not closed
13 Melville novel
14 Kingly
15 Singara's land
16 Sheriff
17 Emulate
18 Pointed instruments
19 Shares food
22 Sheep occupant
23 Banquet abbr.
24 Swizzle stick
26 Interviews officially
31 Postal duck
32 Attention
33 Hackneyed
35 Male party
38 On the brink
40 Sober-minded
42 Pass over
43 Sports trades
45 Fathers
47 "All about"
48 Cabbagelike plant
50 Breathed
52 Cleveland
53 Food container
55 Meats
57 Suspending
63 NY college
65 Vast quantity
66 Gemstone
67 Spore sacs
68 Unfeeling
69 Faithful
70 Legal paper
71 Slave of old
72 "Auld Lang"

DOWN
1 Fall miserably
2 Gun, Bradley
3 Carry
4 Empty talk
5 Speech part
6 Seaweed product
7 Spouses
8 Fabric folds
9 Desert garment
10 Word hard to pronounce
11 Formal mail
12 Steak part
14 Luteus
20 Become whole again
21 Fades out
25 Soaks to soften
26 Unexciting
27 Facility
28 Acrobatics
29 set to music
30 Steps
34 Ireland
35 Yield
37 Harmed
38 Jai
41 Kismet
44 Thick slice
46 Short drive
49 "La Vie"
51 Metal bars
52 Horrific tale
53 Rope loop
54 Denominations
58 Time period
59 Walter's title
60 "Grand Ole"
61 Run for one
62 Take to one
63 Denominations
64 Help

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1 RIGID
2 DOWRY
3 BURN
4 GOOP
5 ENIGMA
6 MIST
7 SEINNA
8 GATA
9 ENTIRE
10 MENA
11 KITT
12 MIA
13 FIDELITY
14 CLOTHED
15 FLORID
16 RIGID
17 DOWRY
18 BURN
19 GOOP
20 ENIGMA
21 MIST
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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.5315/25	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3870/75	Canadian dollars
	2.2072/82	West German marks
	2.4850/60	Dutch guilders
	1.8180/90	Swiss francs
	45.05/10	Belgian francs
	7.0300/50	French francs
	1515/1516	Italian lire
	165.75/85	Japanese yen
	1.1325/75	Swedish crowns
	7.5275/5325	Norwegian crowns
	8.1640/90	Denish crowns
One ounce of gold	347.85/348.25	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities in London closed sharply lower but above the midweek lows in places with the bulk of attention centred around special auctions, dealers said. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 was down 15.1 points at 1,571.3.

Prices have drifted lower on Wednesday with hopes of an early cut in 10 per cent U.K. base rates dashed after Tuesday's larger than expected three per cent rise in sterling M3 money supply. Also the large amount of new issues, rights issues and the forthcoming British gas flotation is overhanging the market, dealers added.

A downward move in base rates is still anticipated, possibly after wake of Friday's U.K. retail price index data. Government bonds closed with losses stretching to one point at the longer end in reaction to Tuesday's money supply data and despite firmer sterling. At 1400 GMT the pound was four basis points higher at 76.3 in trade weighted terms.

Dixons fell a net 16p to 332 after increasing its bid for Woolworth to £1.9 billion or 85p per share. Woolworth, which rejected the increased offer, ended 40p down at 785. Dealers said the market was disappointed with the size of the new offer and had been looking for 880p per share or more.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: If you double-check and make sure you have made the right decision, yesterday's conclusions reached for your activities in the future can be put into effect with courage and conviction.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get your finest talents working efficiently and gain the right benefits from them. Don't be extravagant, however.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Make your home more charming and be happier in it, but get busy early on this. Invite guests in for the evening.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get your correspondence handled in a brilliant way and please your contacts. Visit friends in the evening.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You have been wanting to make monetary changes for some time and can do so best around the noon hour.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You made plans yesterday to gain certain aims and can handle them very wisely now and get good results.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have secret aims that can be made a reality if you get some wise counsel in motion now. Be thoughtful to your mate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be with the most wise and high-minded persons you know and state your aims. Gain their cooperation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) First study civic outlets in the morning, then follow through with career ambitions and get good results.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are inspired to go to a new place where you get a better approach at gaining your ambitions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Showing your mate some special service can bring more harmony for the future. Various outlets open up to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) This is the day to get the backing you have wanted for some time, so go right to the source and get it.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Beautify your surroundings somewhat and be more comfortable and efficient in them. Impress others more.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will, at a tender age, have to be taught the accepted and proven ways of handling the business of living, so be sure to teach the right principles and tenets. Then your progeny will comprehend matters of great scope.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The morning brings you a chance to complete some arrangements of importance that have considerable scope of activity to them, so get these plans into motion.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get your finest talents to the attention of bigwigs and gain their assistance in the morning, then do required work.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be more cooperative with kin and have more harmony at home, then see how much pleasure you desire will cost.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Morning is best time for handling reports and correspondence, other communications. Study your home for improvements.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Many tasks of a practical nature can be well taken care of until about two o'clock. Study how to handle an outside affair.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get an early start in getting your personal affairs handled wisely. Later try to solve a practical matter which has bothered you.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Make a plan early that can help you to quietly gain the personal wishes that mean much to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Early arrange to have a good time later with your friends, then tackle troublesome matters and settle them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Go on with the activities of the past two days until lunchtime, then go after your personal desires.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) In the morning you know how best to expand where your career is concerned, but after lunch, handle a civic matter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) In the morning you know just how to handle practical and financial affairs well. Steer clear of one who depresses you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Do whatever will gain you more prestige in the community in which you dwell. Come to a fine understanding with a bigwig.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get conditions at work improved so that they will last for some time to come. Steer clear of one who likes to boss you around.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very charming, and see everything from its largest scope, so give a fine education that will be helpful in adding to the natural talents. Upon reaching adulthood your progeny will be concerned with details.

Australians must accept lower standard of living, Hawke says

SYDNEY (R) — Prime Minister Bob Hawke told Australians bluntly Wednesday they must tighten their belts and accept lower living standards to overcome the country's growing economic problems.

Mr. Hawke told the nation, stung last month when Treasurer Paul Keating said it could become a "banana republic," that he was prepared to stake his political future on tough decisions vital for recovery.

Australia had been living beyond its means and workers would get only a small wage rise this year while income tax cuts promised for September could be delayed, he said.

The public service would be streamlined to cut costs and the government would launch a "buy Australia" campaign as part of its efforts to combat a ballooning balance of payments deficit and foreign debt.

Mr. Hawke said a major reason for the economic woes was a dramatic decline in the prices of Australia's main exports, wool, wheat, coal and iron ore, coupled with a steady increase in import costs.

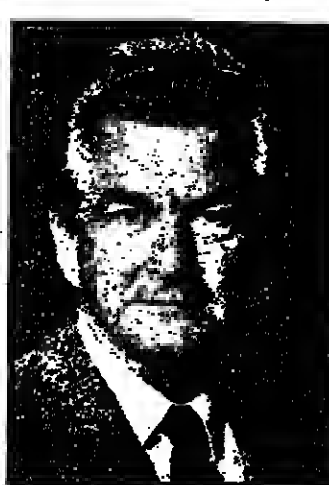
"This most recent turnaround in the terms of trade has slashed three per cent off our capacity to maintain existing living standards," he said. "We have, for the time being, to accept reduced standards of living and, permanently, increased standards of effort."

Mr. Hawke, facing one of his toughest challenges since coming to power three years ago, told young unemployed Australians on the duff they would have to do community service.

He called on the business community to increase investments and promised fast approval for foreign investors entering the manufacturing and services sectors.

Australia, which once dubbed itself "the lucky country" for the prosperity created by its vast mineral and other resources, has seen its balance of payments deficit soar to 13 billion dollars (\$9 billion) over the last 10 months.

Inflation has more than doubled to 9.2 per cent, the dollar has lost more than 20 per cent of its value against other leading currencies since the beginning of 1985 and



Mr. Bob Hawke

net external debt was 52 billion dollars (\$35.9 billion) last year — or 25 per cent of the gross domestic product.

Business leaders, who have been demanding a wage freeze and the dismantling of a national wage fixing system, said Mr. Hawke had not gone far enough. "He promised a mountain and delivered a molehill," opposition leader, Mr. John Howard said.

Mexican publisher wins approval to buy United Press International

WASHINGTON (R) — Mexican publisher Mario Vazquez Rana Tuesday won bankruptcy court approval to buy the world news organisation United Press International (UPI).

His lawyers said he would probably complete his \$41 million purchase of the agency late Wednesday.

The approval for the sale to Mr. Vazquez Rana and his minority partner, Texan developer Joe Russo, represented a dramatic turnaround in the financial fortunes of the agency which filed for bankruptcy code protection from its creditors in April 1985.

Mr. Vazquez Rana, a wealthy owner of a chain of Mexican newspapers, television stations and other businesses, told Bankruptcy Court Judge George Bascon: "I will do everything possible to make UPI the best news agency in the world."

UPI, which has 1,500 staff worldwide and annual revenues put by company officials at about \$90 million, is the second largest U.S.-based news agency after Associated Press.

It was founded in 1907 by owners of the Scripps newspaper chain and lost money over most of the last 20 years.

Mr. Vazquez Rana assured the judge he intended to keep the agency's headquarters in the United States.

"UPI has always been a news agency which is headquartered in the United States and I can promise you it will continue to have its headquarters in the United States," he said.

Analysts predict rosy W. German economy

BONN (R) — The West German economy slowed down in the first quarter of 1986, according to data out Tuesday, but analysts, while toning down their more optimistic predictions, still forecast a good performance for the year as a whole.

Less than a week ahead of a crucial state election, the government has had to admit the economy has suffered a setback, but is presenting it as "a pause for breath" before robust growth later in the year.

The Federal Statistics Office said West Germany's gross national product (GNP), the widest measure of economic activity, fell by one per cent from the final quarter of 1985. Against the first quarter of 1985, it grew 1.6 per cent.

Even as late as the end of April,

Talking through an interpreter because he speaks little English, the Mexican publisher assured the judge he intended to maintain the editorial integrity of the news agency.

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Ton won the agreement of creditors and unionised staff to his takeover, Mr. Vazquez Rana promised to repay about 46 cents on the dollar for the \$22 million UPI owed to unsecured creditors and to sink an additional \$15 million into the news agency to turn it round.

Thousands of creditors — ranging from the giant communications company ATT, which was owed \$6.8 million, to employees owed a few hundred dollars — voted by 96 per cent to accept his repayment offer.

Mr. Vazquez Rana told the court he had advanced the agency \$2.5 million over the past few months to tide it over and he had another \$12.5 million in cash on hand in Washington to pump into the company immediately.

The reorganised agency is to be known as New UPI.

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IMF highlights Belgium's plans to cut public spending

BRUSSELS (R) — An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission has told the Belgian government that its plans for public spending cuts are without recent precedent, but can still be only a beginning towards sound public finances.

The plan, to save 195 billion francs (\$4.4 billion) from the government's 1987 budget, has provoked widespread strikes and demonstrations throughout Belgium.

The coalition government is currently holding a series of meetings with unions and other organisations to discuss the detailed measures amid signs of tension between its Social Christian and liberal wings over whether to make concessions.

The IMF mission, which visited Brussels last month, said in a letter to the government, made available to Reuters Wednesday: "The scale of this programme has no recent precedent in industrial countries and testifies to your determination to bring the public finances under control."

But it added: "This set of measures can only be seen as a first step."

It said that for the government to achieve its target of a budget deficit of eight per cent of gross national product (GNP) next year after over 11 per cent in 1985, Belgium would require a better economic performance than generally forecast.

But the mission added that Belgium should adopt a minimum long-term aim of ensuring that its public debt, currently over 5,000 billion francs (\$110 billion), ceases to increase as a proportion of GNP.

In order to achieve this, the budget deficit would have to fall to around 5.5 per cent of GNP, it

said. The IMF report is likely to be welcomed by Belgium's hard-line liberal parties which insist that the government plan, agreed after weeks of negotiation by senior ministers, must go through substantially unaltered.

Their Social Christian coalition partners, pressured by unions affiliated to them, have shown greater signs of willingness to negotiate.

Mr. Gerard Deprez, leader of the French-speaking Social Christians, but not a government minister, said last week some of the proposed education cuts were "unpracticable" and the government was doing too much too quickly.

The strikes which began well before the official announcement of the measures have moderated in recent days although socialist unions plan general one-day strikes in selected regions Thursday and on Friday.

Japan is altering oil market attitude

TOKYO (R) — Japan, the world's largest oil importer, is rethinking its attitude towards oil trading to try to gain at least some control over its energy costs, government and industry officials say.

Officials at the Institute of Energy Economics, a private think-tank with a government advisory role, say it is time Japan opened its own futures trading exchange to counter foreign influence.

Japan takes more than 10 per cent of the world's crude but has allowed the London and New York markets to rule the price refiners must pay for the four million barrels imported daily.

Futures markets trading in London and New York — dealing contracts for future delivery of the commodity — is powerful enough to send shock waves through the real market. It causes Tokyo's prices to plummet or soar and upsets the country's policymakers and refiners.

"North Sea Brent in London's futures market and West Texas intermediate in New York are too influential in our Middle East oil prices so Japan wants to get control back if possible," said Mr. Toyooki Ikuta, president of the institute.

Until now Japan's energy policymakers shunned the idea of futures trading in oil, fearing it would encourage too much speculation and endanger the stability of a vital commodity.

But in April crude oil futures were seriously discussed when the chairman of a leading Singapore refinery visited Tokyo.

"If Japan doesn't do it soon we will find ourselves having to compete with a Singapore oil futures exchange," Mr. Ikuta said.

A futures market east of Suez based on Middle East crudes would do much to push Japan into the market limelight and give it bigger influence over world oil prices.

But there is still resistance to Tokyo-based futures inside the

ministry of international trade and industry (MITI).

"Futures oil trading only stimulates speculative interest and can give dangerous signals, the wrong signs of the market's true direction," a MITI official told Reuters.

Japan's spot oil buying — one-off deals at prices based on international market levels — has grown in the past two years to account for more than 30 per cent of all oil coming into Japan each month.

Spot market trading developed in Tokyo two years ago when the power of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to control all world oil prices declined.

MITI eyed it as a possible threat to stability of supplies but government opinion has turned lately. Some officials are letting it be known unofficially that the spot buying trend is welcome as they now see advantages to refiners and traders.

If increases refiners' flexibility and gives Japan easier and cheaper access to a wider range of crude.

"When we consider the size of the Tokyo market, we expect the

spot market here to grow much bigger, making Tokyo a trading centre for the Far East market," said a government source.

Japan's free crude market and sophisticated trading network favours Tokyo establishing itself as the Asian market centre for Middle East crudes.

The government is deliberately taking steps to promote a strong Middle East crude market to balance Tokyo's importance with New York and London.

Incentives such as tax relief may be considered, some industry sources suggested.

While pockets of influential opinion favour creating a free, fully-fledged market in Tokyo with a back-up secondary futures exchange, oil analysts note that policies towards refining have not been affected by the side in energy prices.

The effects of the world oil price collapse coupled with the yen's appreciation against the dollar, making oil even cheaper for Japan which must pay in dollars, are beginning to show through in Japanese refiners' profits, utility company rebates to consumers and a marginal decline in petrol retail prices.

UAE turns to non-oil exports

ABU DHABI, UAE (AP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE), sharply affected by the decline of oil revenues, is gradually turning to non-oil exports as a possible alternative source of income, it was reported here Wednesday.

According to statistics released by the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, an annual increase of 19 per cent was reported in the UAE non-oil exports in the 1980-1984 period — from 2.4 billion dirhams (\$652.1 million) to 3.4 billion dirhams (\$1 billion).

Arab countries, mainly the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), have emerged as the major market for

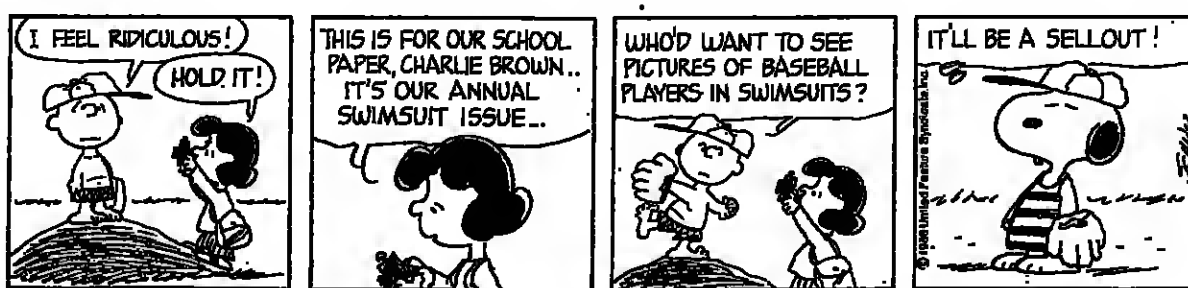
UAE's non-oil exports, according to the chamber's statistical report. The GCC groups the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Qatar in an economic integration and combined defence pact.

The UAE exported to the GCC states 81 per cent of its total exports in 1984, according to the report.

UAE's oil revenues reached a peak of about \$20 billion in 1981, before being forced down by lower production price levels, to about \$6 billion in 1985.

This has resulted in a steady decline in imports from Arab states, giving the emirates a surplus balance of trade.

Peanuts



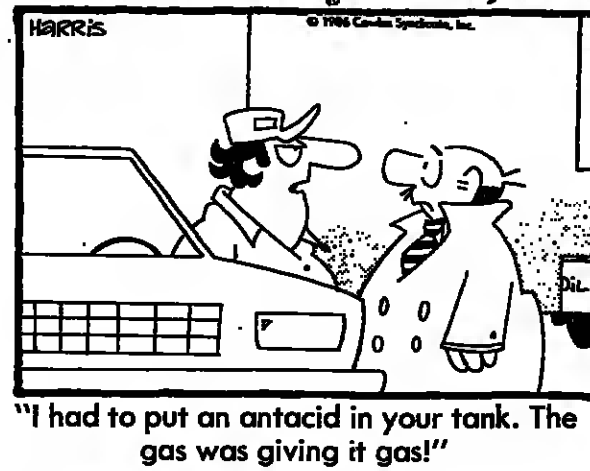
Mutt 'n' Jeff



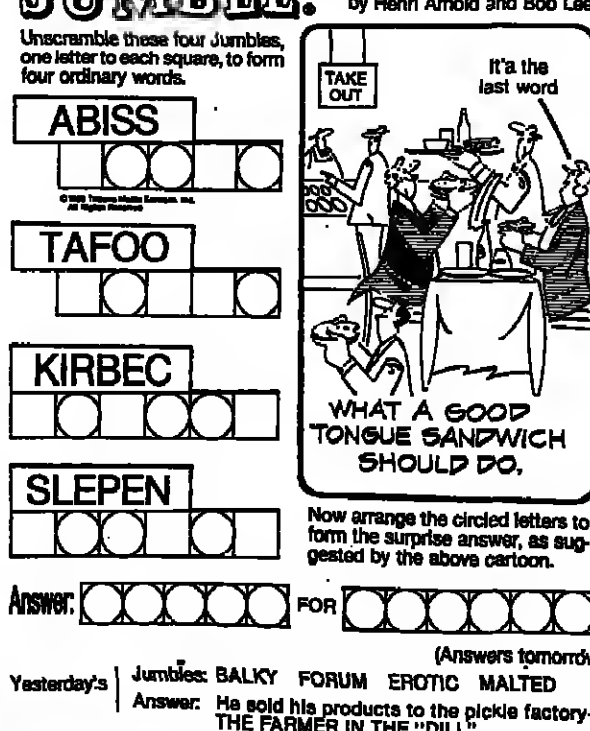
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



80 people killed in 2 Sri Lankan bus blasts

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (Agencies) — Time bombs Wednesday blew up two crowded buses in the eastern provincial capital of Trincomalee, killing more than 80 people, the government's joint operations command reported.

Authorities immediately imposed a 12-hour curfew on the city to prevent reprisal attacks.

A spokesman for the joint command said the buses "were blown to bits." He spoke on condition he not be identified.

One of the buses was headed for Colombo, 260 kilometres south west of Trincomalee, and one was headed for Kantalai, about 30 kilometres south of Trincomalee, when the bombs exploded.

The joint command said more than 80 people were killed, but an official at the government-owned Ceylon Transport Board, which operated the buses, said the toll could be higher.

The transport official said that most of the victims were likely to be Sinhalese, because of their destinations. He also spoke on condition of anonymity.

There have been a rash of bombings and attacks on Sinhalese in recent weeks, which the government has blamed on militant Tamils who have been fighting for a separate homeland in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

The Tamils, who are mostly Hindu and make up 18 per cent of

Sri Lanka's population of 16 million, claim discrimination by the dominant Sinhalese Buddhists.

Trincomalee, the provincial capital of eastern Sri Lanka, is populated by Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims.

President Junius Jayewardene has had intensive talks over the past two days with the Indian High Commissioner (ambassador) J.N. Dixit on proposals to end the conflict between Tamils and Sinhalese.

Gen. Sepala Attiyagalle, the Defence Ministry secretary, told Reuters the precise toll in Wednesday blasts was not yet known.

"These are all innocent civilian passengers who have died or been injured," he said.

Security sources said some seriously injured passengers were rushed in ambulances and buses to a hospital in the Buddhist Holy City of Anuradhapura, 100 kilometres from Trincomalee.

Gen. Attiyagalle said the Trincomalee area had a mixed population and the casualties could have come from all three communities.

The authorities said the Joint

Operations Commander, Lt. Gen. Cyril Ranatunga, who flew to Trincomalee Tuesday, was directing operations at the scene.

Meanwhile the wife of a Sinhalese rice paddy farmer said police forced her family to return to areas of Tamil terrorist attacks and has asked the supreme court to prohibit forced resettlement.

Attorney Sarah Wijesinghe said Tuesday that he asked the court for an injunction against police and government officials forcing Sinhalese farmers to live in dangerous regions where they could be attacked by Tamil separatists.

It is a class action suit filed on behalf of all refugees of ethnic violence and asks the court to guarantee their constitutional right to live wherever they wish.

The legal-aid attorney filed the petition Monday on behalf of Mrs. K.A.K. Kusumawathie, whom he called a "paddy farmer's wife in hiding." He said Mrs. Kusumawathie had been forced by police to return to a village which had been attacked by Tamil terrorists twice last year.

In the petition, Mrs. Kusumawathie said she, her husband and children were taken by force to live at Dehiwath village near Trincomalee district. In the attacks last year some Sinhalese were killed and wounded. Many fled to their ancestral Sinhalese home in the deep south of the island.

The authorities said the Joint

White House denies role in shuttle disaster

WASHINGTON (R) — The head of a presidential commission that probed the Challenger disaster has angrily denied rumours that the White House played a role in the ill-fated launch decision.

Chairman William Rogers also told congressional panels Tuesday it would not be "in the national interest" to prosecute officials responsible for the decision to launch the shuttle on Jan. 28.

In a heated exchange before the Senate Commerce Committee, Rogers repeatedly said there was no proof the White House pressured NASA to launch the Challenger as a hit of drama to coincide with President Reagan's "state of the union" address.

"I hope the rumours dies, the rumour dies," an exasperated Rogers shouted at Senator Ernest Hollings, a South Carolina Democrat, who said he planned to investigate the charge.

"If you can prove anything like that ever happened, I'll come back here and apologise to you," a clearly irritated Rogers said. "I don't think there is a bit of evidence, a scintilla of evidence."

Rogers said commission investigators had questioned everyone involved in the decision to launch the shuttle against the advice of lower-ranking engineers that unusually cold weather posed a safety risk. All seven astronauts died when the shuttle exploded 74 seconds after takeoff.

On Monday, Rogers' 13-member commission issued a report that cited the failure of a joint in the shuttle's solid-fuel rocket booster as the cause of the disaster. It also severely criticised the decision-making process at NASA (the National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

S. African racial conflict claims seven more lives

CAPE TOWN (R) — The death toll in South Africa's racial conflict mounted inexorably Wednesday as the government was beginning a crucial debate on crushing an unprecedented rebellion in black townships.

Police said seven black people died overnight across the country, three of them shot by police and the rest killed in black-against-black fighting at the Crossroads shanty area near Cape Town.

The report was issued minutes before the cabinet began meeting in Cape Town following the government's failure to push through parliament two tough security bills ahead of Monday's 10th anniversary of the Soweto protests.

Police said they shot two people dead in Kwazakale in the eastern Cape while another person was gunned down at Guguleu, part of the Crossroads complex.

They said that in the same area a youth was hacked to death by fellow blacks and three bodies were later found in the vicinity, apparently more victims of Crossroads fighting which has claimed

at least 22 lives since the weekend. Government attempts to secure the bills were defeated Tuesday night by Indian and coloured (mixed race) members of parliament objecting to Law and Order Minister Louis Le Grange's request for draconian powers.

The government wanted the new laws, allowing Mr. Le Grange to declare "unrest" areas where he could make whatever regulations he deemed necessary, ahead of Monday's anniversary of the 1976 uprising by black students in Soweto.

Leading opponents of apartheid race discrimination have vowed to defy a government ban on commemorating June 16. The government is committed to a tough crackdown.

On Tuesday night official sources leaked letters from Foreign Minister P.W. Botha criticising a peace plan by Commonwealth mediators. The plan urged a suspension of violence, the release of jailed black leader Nelson Mandela, lifting the ban on his African National Congress (ANC), and negotiations.

16-day-old boy undergoes rare heart transplant

LOMA LINDA, California (R) — Doctors have removed the healthy heart of a brain-dead infant flown here from Michigan and implanted it in the chest of "Baby Jesse," a 16-day-old boy.

Leonard Bailey, a pioneer in infant heart transplants, began the procedure about 6:25 p.m. local time Tuesday (0125 GMT Wednesday) and said he expected it to last at least four hours, said a spokesman for Loma Linda University Medical Centre.

"Everything looks good and Dr. Bailey was pleased with the preliminary testing necessary for such delicate surgery," said the spokesman, Gus Cheatham.

The transplant team confirmed the results of blood compatibility tests done by a Michigan hospital, where the donor infant was pronounced brain dead last Wednesday. He had since been kept alive on life support systems.

Bailey told a news conference that the two hours of post-operative care would be the most crucial time for Jesse Dean Sepulveda, who was born with a usually fatal heart defect on May 25.

He said that apart from his terminal heart condition, Jesse was healthy and alert and he expected

the 10-pound, five-ounce child could have a long life if he survived initial rejection of the donor organ by his immune system.

Meanwhile, in Louisville, Kentucky, Murray Haydon, who became the world's third recipient of a permanent artificial heart 478 days ago, is suffering from an infection which has caused his condition to worsen, doctors said Tuesday night.

Sources at Humana Heart Institute said the infection had caused neurological problems which left Haydon, 59, mentally confused. They said he might have to be placed on a kidney dialysis machine if his condition did not improve.

Officially, the institute listed his condition as "deteriorated somewhat."

Haydon's natural heart was replaced with the implant on Feb. 17, 1985. He subsequently suffered a stroke and was put on a respirator.

If kidney dialysis is required, the process would be the third artificial device keeping Haydon alive.

William Schroeder, the world's longest living recipient of an artificial heart, received his implant on Nov. 25, 1984. He is also a patient at the institute.

COLUMNS 7&8

Geldof gets honorary knighthood

LONDON (Agencies) — Rock Singer Bob Geldof, who has helped raise more than \$100 million for starving Africans, was awarded an honorary knighthood. The honour was "in recognition of Mr. Geldof's outstanding services in mobilising British public support for famine relief in Africa," the Foreign Office said. The appointment as Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE) was an honorary one because Geldof is an Irishman and not a British citizen, a Foreign Office spokesman told Reuters. It meant Geldof could not call himself Sir Bob, but was entitled to add KBE after his name, he said. Meanwhile thieves smashed the window of a jeep belonging to Geldof in London and made off with personal telephone books and papers detailing future fund-raising projects, said his personal assistant, Marsha Hunt. It happened on the same day as the announcement that Geldof was being decorated by Queen Elizabeth II for his famine work. Ms. Hunt, who was using the jeep while Geldof was in Los Angeles, said: "This has put a real downer on what should have been a great day when his knighthood was announced." She said the stolen items were "of no use to anyone but Bob and me. But if we don't get the documents back it could hold up some money going for aid because we will lose track of where we are," she said.

Voters reject clampdown on obscenity

AUGUSTA, Maine (R) — Maine voters rejected a church minister's call to make producing, selling, possessing or promoting obscene material a state crime punishable by up to five years in jail. The vote in the referendum was 68 per cent to 32 per cent against the proposal, which would have left to the courts to decide what was obscene. Prosecutors said the measure would be unenforceable. The Reverend Jasper Wyman, who led a drive to collect the 50,000 signatures required to put the issue to a vote, conceded defeat less than two hours after polling ended.

Bank teller has witnessed 30 holdups

MONTREAL (R) — Teller Lise Chayer, who has witnessed 30 bank holdups in 10 years, thinks she has a good chance at a listing in the Guinness Book of World Records. The most recent incident occurred last month when three robbers made off with \$1,650 from the branch of the Bank of Montreal where she has worked since 1980. "After it happened, I asked my boss, 'If I hit 50, do I get a cake?'" she said. Chayer's first holdup occurred in 1976 while she was working at another bank. She does not remember all 30, some of which involved other tellers, but says she usually faints when told to "stick 'em up." "I like working with the public. But 30 is it. The next time it happens, maybe I'll take an early pension or maybe get a job with the staff," she said. "Thirty-one would be too much. My heart can't stand it."

Pat Jennings to celebrate 41st birthday

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (R) — The Northern Ireland World Cup squad have not finalised details of how they intend celebrating the 41st birthday of goalkeeper Pat Jennings. Jennings will mark the day in fitting style by earning his 119th cap, a world record, against Brazil in Guadalajara on Thursday but it is the off-pitch party which is causing headaches. One team-mate investigated the possibility of arranging a "stirpogran," a novelty popular in Britain which involves a young woman singing a birthday message while doing a striptease. But a Guadalajara policeman thought it unlikely such a service exists in Mexico.

Bangladesh settlers vow to stay on hills

DHAKA (R) — Muslim settlers in Bangladesh's southern Chittagong Hill Tracts district said they would not leave the region despite death threats by tribal insurgents.

"They said they would fight 'to the last drop of our blood' to defend themselves and assert their rights to homes and land offered

by the government.

The vows were contained in a statement issued Tuesday by a newly-formed settlers' committee calling for peace in the 13,000 square kilometre region of mountains and dense forests bordering India and Burma.

The committee said tribal Shanti Bahini (peace force) guerrillas

killed more than 1,000 settlers in the past three months and burned thousands of homes.

It pledged to take up arms to fight the insurgents, saying: "It is sad and appalling that thousands of troops stand inactive when innocent men, women and children are butchered by the so-called Shanti Bahini."

Other government officials

Contras free 8 Germans

MANAGUA (R) — Eight West German volunteers were freed by U.S.-backed rebels after being held for three weeks in a remote jungle area in south eastern Nicaragua, a government statement has said.

The statement, broadcast on Voice of Nicaragua radio, said Tuesday the four men and four women were released at 6:35 p.m. local time (0035 GMT) in the village Presidialta, about 240 kilometres east of Managua.

"We want to communicate this good news to the people of Nicaragua and to the international community," said the brief statement, read by information minister Manuel Espinoza.

The release of the Germans came minutes after a ceasefire proclaimed by the leftist Sandinista government had expired, ending protracted negotiations involving West German politician Hans-Juergen Wischniowski.

No details were given about the health of the Germans, who are young volunteer construction workers, but the statement said the government would have them over to Mr. Wischniowski and the Red Cross within the next few hours.

The eight were kidnapped by the rebels, known as contras, on May 17 from the village of Jacinta Baca, about 32 kilometres south of the village where they were released.

President Daniel Ortega on Sunday said Nicaragua might use force to rescue the Germans if they were not freed by 6 p.m. local time (midnight GMT) Monday.

Filipino rebels determined to seek peace with Manila

MANILA (AP) — A Communist Party leader assigned to negotiate a cease-fire in the 17-year insurgency in the Philippines says he sees tough negotiations ahead but the rebels are determined to seek peace.

Satur Ocampo said in an "open letter" received by the Associated Press Wednesday that his acceptance by President Corazon Aquino as the rebels' chief negotiator implies recognition of "our mutual sincere desire for genuine and lasting peace and national unity."

"A genuine and lasting peace based on justice and democracy will certainly serve our people's interest and welfare," Mr. Ocampo said. Thus, the National Democratic Front and its affiliated organisations are determined to seek the road to this peace over the conference table and elsewhere.

The front is an umbrella organisation that includes the Communist Party of the Philippines, its military arm, the New People's Army, and other underground organisations sympathetic to the Communist cause.

Mr. Ocampo did not elaborate on the term "elsewhere," but his letter appeared to confirm earlier newspaper reports that the Communists had softened their previous policy of armed struggle.

Presidential spokeswoman Alice Villalobos told reporters Wednesday the government had not received Mr. Ocampo's letter and that the forthcoming talks with the insurgents had not been discussed at Wednesday's weekly cabinet meeting.

He was referring to some military officials who reportedly oppose negotiations with the rebels but have not publicly come out against the proposed talks.

"That concisely puts in perspective the dialogue and negotiations that the two sides will undertake," he said.

"This is no easy task for me and my comrades and for the government panel," Mr. Ocampo said, "not only because the process entails the resolution of many immediate and long-term problems, because there are elements in and out of the government who would rather not see the negotiations proceed and succeed."

He was referring to some military officials who reportedly oppose negotiations with the rebels but have not publicly come out against the proposed talks.

He told parliament that government policy already banned human rights violations and "acts of atrocity" in criminal investigations but said the government could not be sure of preventing such practices at grassroots level.

Amnesty International, the London-based human rights group, said in a report released on Wednesday that South Korea jailed hundreds of government critics every year and tortured some of them.

It said some detainees were given electric shocks, beaten or deprived of food or sleep. Others had their heads immersed in water, were suffocated with wet towels or hung from a rod and spun around.

Mr. Lho said: "My government will do its best to prevent human

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkens

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By Stanley B. Whitten

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